

T H E

Cirencester Contest.

Containing all the

Letters, Papers, Verses, Songs, &c.

Relative to the

E L E C T I O N,

That have been printed on all Sides, from the Beginning of the Opposition to this Time.

And some **O R I G I N A L S**

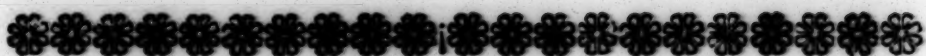
Connected and disposed in the same Order they came out; and each Paper connected with the preceding one, in such Manner as to make the Whole a complete Narrative of the most important Passages on that Occasion.

WITH AN

Introductory **P R E F A C E**, and a few **REMARKS** and **OBSERVATIONS**.

By an **IMPARTIAL HAND**.

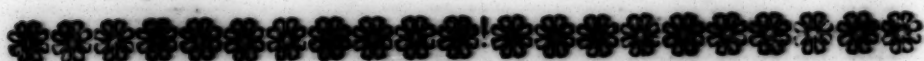
CIRENCESTER: Printed by S. RUDDER; and sold by Mess. J. and J. RIVINGTON, in St. Paul's Church-yard; and J. ROBINSON, in Ludgate-street, LONDON.



*The following Note was omitted, thro' Hurry, in the
Body of the Pamphlet.*

The **WR's** is an Appellation which was at first
bestow'd on two or three Families in the Town ; but
now is frequently apply'd to their Party in general.

To do Justice to the Authors and Printers of the
Papers in this Collection, Care has been taken to *cap-
ital*, to *point*, and *italic* exactly as it was done in the
original Copies.



INTRODUCTION.

***** H A T the Reader may the better understand some Passages in the following Papers, it may be necessary to inform him of a few Facts previous to this Contest ; and that there may be no Room to complain of Partiality on either Side, I shall lay them down in as plain a Narrative as possible ; my principal Business being only to furnish the Materials from which every Reader may be enabled to form a right Judgment of our present Disputes.

The Case is this. In the Year 1749, on the Death of our worthy Representative *Thomas Master, jun. Esq;* Mr. *Coxe* of *Lippiat*, one of our present Members, offer'd himself for the Borough of *Cirencester*, on Mr. *Master's* Interest ; and tho' Mr. *Coxe*, for some Reasons which shall not now be mention'd, was not agreeable to many of the Electors, yet they met with so little Encouragement from the Gentleman whom they would have chosen, that Mr. *Coxe* was elected without Opposition. But the Dislike to Mr. *Coxe* still subsisting, an Opposition has been ever since expected at the ensuing general Election, should he be then proposed ; nay, even the principal of those who now so strenuously act in his Interest have frequently declared, *That they could never think of him any more for the Town.*

B

Things

Things being thus circumstanced, gave Occasion to a Report being spread, that the Hon. Mr. *Benjamin Bathurst* would stand for the Town upon his own Interest: For Lord *Bathurst* had *already* declared to all his Friends, that he should be obliged to the Town if they would continue to chuse the Hon. Mr. *Henry Bathurst*, and, for his Part, did not desire any more, nor would interest himself any further.

The Hon. Mr. *Benjamin Bathurst* being in the Country, and not contradicting the Report that he intended to stand, alarmed some Persons in the Town, who went to Lord *Bathurst*, and proposed to him to chuse either of his Sons, provided his Lordship would engage he should join *any Gentleman* they should name, and be at equal Expence with him. See Number 24 of *this Collection*.

His Lordship no Doubt presuming (and with great Reason) that his Interest was already very secure in this Borough, which he had formerly represented himself, and where he has ever since resided, could not accept of these Terms, which reduced him to the same Footing with a Stranger. He told them at the same Time, however, that they would oblige him in chusing his younger Son, and that he should interest himself no further.

His Lordship had undoubtedly heard that a very powerful Opposition to Mr. *Coxe* was determined upon at all Events, even tho' his Lordship should have joined Mr. *Henry Bathurst* with him; which Opposition, to say the least, must have made the Election very expensive.

Lord *Bathurst* further told them, that with Respect to his Son, Mr. *Benjamin Bathurst*, if He had any Intention of standing, he [his Lordship] had no Right to interfere: They had better apply to him themselves.

It

It was therefore agreed upon to invite Mr. *Bathurst* of *Siddington* to meet them at Lord *Bathurst*'s two Days afterwards, (which was Thursday, Aug. 9, 1753) at ten o'Clock in the Morning. In the mean Time, Lord *Bathurst* having seen Mr. *Bathurst* of *Siddington*, and finding him determined to stand, unless Mr. *Coxe* would decline, which Lord *Bathurst* had Reason to think would not be agreed to, his Lordship sent to some of his Friends to be ready to canvass as soon as the afore-said Conference should be over.

This was said by some particular Persons to be a Breach of Agreement, and therefore instead of meeting Mr. *Bathurst*, as was proposed, they sent Lord *Bathurst* Word, that his Lordship had not kept his Promise, and he might declare for two Candidates as soon as he pleased, and that they should do the same. Lord *Bathurst*, therefore, immediately desired his Friends to canvass for Mr. *Henry Bathurst* singly; and Mr. *Benjamin Bathurst* of *Siddington* then publish'd the following Paper.

No I.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

AS I propose to offer my self a Candidate for this Borough at the next General Election, I take this Method to desire your Votes and Interest, 'till I can make Personal Application, which I shall immediately do.

I am, Gentlemen,

Siddington,

Your most Humble Servant

Aug. 9, 1753.

B. BATHURST.

B 2

Mr.

Mr. *Batburst* appearing in the Market-Place whilst yet his Papers were distributing, to shew his Desire of preserving the Peace of the Town, offer'd Mr. *Coxe* and his Friends to decline, if he would do the same, and they could nominate some neighbouring Gentleman agreeable to the Town. This was absolutely refused. 'Twas then proposed to defer making Interest on either Side, till after a Conference to be held on the Monday Morning following; but Lord *Batburst*, after having received the Message just before-mention'd, and not thinking himself at all concerned with either of the contending Parties, persisted in the Canvass for Mr. *Henry Batburst*; whereupon the following Paper was publish'd.

No. II.

August 9, 1753.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

YOU are Desired not to Engage your Votes as yet, for the next Ensuing ELECTION, and may be assured Two proper Candidates will soon be Named, with such Recommendations as will intitle them to your Favour.

It seems from hence that the Publishers of this Advertisement were not then determined whom they should set up; tho' they had told Lord *Batburst*, some Days before, that in Case he would not agree to their Proposals, he must expect *immediately* to hear of two Candidates being declared; and it is well known that they did apply to some Gentlemen, and invite them to stand, but were refused.

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The nex Morning came out another Paper, intended, I suppose, as a Piece of Ridicule on the last Advertisement.

No. III.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

WHREAS we took the Liberty of addressing you Yesterday in an anonymous Advertisement, desiring you not to engage your Votes, *as yet*, for the next ensuing Election, there being two Candidates *soon* to be named for this antient Borough, with *sufficient Abilities and Recommendations* to entitle them to your Favour; We being since convinced that it will be for the *Peace and Walfare of the Town* to withdraw all Pretensions to such a Favour, assure you that it is on *that* Account only we are determined to give you no farther Trouble.

We are, GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient

and most obliged humble Servants,

August 10,
1753.

THOMAS PERT,
COCKEYE, jun.

N. B. *Thomas Pert* and *Cock-Eye jun.* are two Persons not improperly named together, there being some Affinity in their Employments. They are Porters alike; One sometimes beats the *Drum*, as the Other does the Streets.

Notwithstanding it was declar'd in their first Advertisement, that two Persons would soon be named of unquestionable Merit, in Opposition to the two Mr. *Bathursts*,

thursts, yet, on Monday Evening following, Mr. *Coxe* publickly declared his Resolution of standing, singly, on Mr. *Master's* Interest; and the next Morning came out this Paper.

No. IV.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

IT is thought proper to take this publick Method, of acquainting you that Mr. *Coxe* who has declared himself a Candidate for this Borough; for one of your Representatives in Parliament upon Mr. *Master's* Interest, the Old Interest of this Town, at the next ensuing Election; will apply to you Personally on Thursday next, to ask the favour of your Votes and Interest: And hopes you will Excuse him for not doing it sooner, which by the advice of his Friends is deferred to that Time.

August 14, 1753.

From the very Beginning a great Cry had been made of Mr. *Master's* Interest; but he not appearing personally, many were ready to conclude he did not chuse to interest himself in the Affair. But to set the Town right in that Respect, they were address'd in the following Manner.

No. V.

No. V.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

WHEREAS it has been reported, that Mr. Master is not desirous that his Friends should Engage themselves for me at the next ELECTION. I do hereby declare that I have now a LETTER from Him, wherein he says, *That all the assistance given to me, will be Esteemed an Obligation to their faithful Humble Servant T. Master.*

J. COXE.

N. B. One Fordham having reported this Falsity has seen the LETTER, and says he is satisfied of the Truth of this Assertion.

The same Day, the Gentleman who was fix'd upon for spreading the above Report, vindicates himself, as under.

No. VI.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

WHEREAS a printed Paper has been spread about, asserting that I have reported " Mr. Master has not given his Interest to Mr. Coke;" I hereby assert the Falshood of that Report, * being well
in-

* The Author of this Advertisement apply'd too late to the Printer to have the following Alteration made: *I hereby declare that Assertion to be false.*

inform'd that Mr. *Master* has given his Interest to the said Mr. *Coxe*, and to the Hon. HENRY BATHURST, Esq; who has serv'd this Town with Fidelity and Ability near twenty Years.

One FORDHAM.

The latter Part of the foregoing Advertisement occasion'd the following Paper.

No. VII.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

WHEREAS a printed Paper was late last Night dispersed about the Town artfully suggesting
“ That MR. MASTER has given his Interest to Mr.
“ COXE and to the Hon. Henry Bathurst, Esq; It is thought necessary to assure you, that MR. MASTER hath not given his Interest to Mr. Henry Bathurst, any otherwise than in Case he joined for the Preservation of the Peace of this Town (which hitherto hath been refused) with MR. COXE.

About this Time a Report prevailed that a Compromise was on Foot, which gave Occasion for the following Address.

No. VIII.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

WHEREAS it has been industriously and maliciously reported, that I intend to desist from
offer-

offering myself a Candidate at the ensuing Election : This is to assure you, that I offer'd myself entirely upon my own Interest, as a neighbouring Gentleman, independently of any other Person ; and received so great Encouragement from Gentlemen of all Parties, that I am determined to continue to the last my Claim to your Favours, and shall endeavour to deserve them.

Siddington,
Aug. 16, 1753.

Your obliged humble Servant,
B. BATHURST.

This last Letter satisfied Mr. *Batburst's* Friends, many of whom were before very uneasy at the Report. The next thing that made its Appearance is something alluding thereto, and came out the second Day of Mr. *Coxe's* Canvass, in the following Manner.

No. IX.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

THE Success I have had in my Canvass, and your Steadiness in supporting the Interest of Mr. MASTER, the OLD and NATURAL Interest of this Town, loudly call for my early and publick Acknowledgment ; I hereby assure Ye, that *I shall persist to the last*, and always Endeavour to deserve your Favours, without having Recourse to *any Artifices or malicious Reports* to the Prejudice of any Candidate, being extremely well convinced, That, as I am not capable, so neither is there the least Occasion for such to be made use of, By

Your obliged humble Servant

Aug. 18, 1753.

J. COXE.

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The

The next Paper publish'd was the following, viz.

No. X.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

HAVING been informed that notwithstanding my Recommendations of MR. COXE to your Choice, for one of your Representatives in Parliament at the next ELECTION under my own Hand, some doubts have been raised as to the Truth thereof, I think my self Obliged to take this publick Method of removing all such Suggestions by hereby declaring, that I have already, and still continue to Recommend the said MR. COXE SINGLY to your Favour, which I propose to do in Person, as soon as my Illness (which now I am in hopes will not detain me much longer here) will permit.

BATH,
Aug. 27, 1753.

Your old Friend and
Fellow Townsman,

T. MASTER

Three or four Days after the Date of this Letter, the Hon. Mr. *Henry Batburs*t returning from the Circuit, was met by a great Number of his Friends on Horseback, who (preceded by the Wool-Combers) attended him into Town, and drew up in the Market-Place, where Mr. *Batburs*t spoke as follows.

No. XI.

No. XI.

A S P E E C H

Made by the Hon. Mr. HENRY BATHURST,

TO THE

Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of CIRENCESTER,
who met him on his Return from the Circuit.

Gentlemen,

HAVING had the Honour to represent this BOROUGH in Parliament for almost twenty Years, upon the Recommendation of my Father, Lord BATHURST; I own I did flatter myself that the *same Recommendation* would again have met with the *same Concurrence*. I know that I have endeavour'd to deserve it; and to the best of my poor Abilities, have always tried to be of Service to the Town in general, and to every Inhabitant of it in particular. I trust that I have obliged many; I hope that I have offended none.

Yet I am informed that a most ungenerous Advantage has been taken of my necessary Absence upon the Circuit, and that some Gentlemen (and those too from whom I had the least Reason to expect it) have been *hawking* about the City and the Country to get a fourth Candidate to come and oppose me; and when their Malice was in that Respect disappointed, are now endeavouring to persuade You to give up one Half of your Birthright, sooner than suffer you to vote for me, who have never offended them; nay, I will say more, who have often obliged them: But the Honour you have this Day done me in coming to meet me in so large a Body, is a convincing Proof that their Enmity will do me no Prejudice.

Two very worthy Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood have offer'd themselves upon this Occasion as Candidates to the Town. It would ill become Me to say any thing in Behalf of the one, or to the Prejudice of the other. You know them both, and are the best Judges who are most likely to do Service to the Town, and Honour to your Choice ; and if you think their Inclinations or their Abilities to serve you are greater than mine, in God's Name choose them both ; if not, believe me, to which ever you give your other Vote, I shall still be obliged to you for that which you are pleas'd to bestow upon Me ; but do not be prevail'd upon to part with Half your Birthright by giving a single Vote, only to gratify the Pride (or the Spleen) of a few in preventing me from having the Honour of being unanimously elected. And be assured, that notwithstanding the ungenerous Treatment, the undeserved Opposition, (I had almost said the ungrateful Behaviour) I have met with from some Particulars, I shall always retain an equal Zeal for the Service of this Town, and be ever grateful to those who continue to be my Friends.

Here I cannot help observing the very different Spirit of the contending Parties ; and as it may clear up some Points in future Papers, I shall attempt to give my Readers an impartial Account of the Transactions of this Day.

When Mr. *Coxe* came to Town, two or three Days after he declared, he was met by many of his Town-Friends, who, together with some neighbouring Gentlemen from the Country, proceeded along the Streets to the Market-place, without the least Insult or Interruption.

The

The Case was very different with the Hon. Gentleman before us. He came into Town about six o'Clock in the Evening. The whole Day was spent in collecting together the Mob on the other Side ; and People were posted on the Tower to observe what Route he took. The Design of this appear'd evidently afterwards ; for when the Company came as far as to the End of *St. Thomas-Street*, they were insulted and abused as they pass'd along, by some of the Ring-leaders of the said Mob, who were detach'd for that Purpose from the main Body : And 'tis observable, that the nearer they came to the Mob's Head-Quarters, which were at the Abby-Door, the Attack became the more general ; till at last, heated with Liquor, and abetted by several Gentlemen of the Town and Country, they became daring enough to seize the Horses Bridles and beat the Riders. They were furnish'd with Hand-bells, and armed with Dirt and Stones, which they plentifully dispensed, without Regard either to Rank or Character. Many were thrown from their Horses, and one of them so cruelly beaten that his Life was despaired of ; but is since recover'd. I might instance other Proceedings of this Day not less extraordinary ; but I chuse rather to fall short than exceed the Bounds of Truth, in the Relation of those Circumstances which I believe the very Persons immediately concerned are now themselves ashamed of.——What they advanced in their own Defence upon this Occasion, will appear in a following Number. But to proceed with the Papers which intervened.

The next Day after the Hon. Mr. *Henry Batburst* had made his public Entrance, he began his Canvass in Person; and we saw his Speech publickly attack'd in the under-written Queries.

No. XII.

Q U E R I E S

Humbly submitted to the

Worthy ELECTORS of *the* Borough of Cirencester.

Upon a late Printed Speech.

1. **W**Hether there is any reasonable ground for complaint that the *same Recommendation* doth not meet with the *same Concurrence*, when an Attempt is now making to divide the Antient and Natural Interest of this Town?
2. As to the Ungenerousness Suggested, who began canvassing first?
3. Whether the *most* ungenerous Advantage hath not been taken of the *Minority* in a Worthy Family, and the Illness and Absence of your old Friend, and Fellow Townsman, not to mention the like Advantage attempted to be taken of the Distress of that Family at the last Election?
4. What a mean Opinion must be conceived of your Understandings by those who can insinuate, that notwithstanding two Brothers offer themselves as Candidates, they do not in Effect join, and the more so, as it is notorious, That the Agents, of the one ask Votes for the other?

5. Whe-

5. Whether it will not really prejudice that *Birtbright* which you laudably exert in Favour of MR. MASTER, if you don't put his Friends upon an equal Footing with the other Candidates by giving him *a single Vote*, and as to Ingratitude, who can be most properly said to be a Defserter of old Friendship?

6. Whether you'll be persuaded out of your Reason by a flourishing Speech only?

N. B. As to *hawking* after a fourth Candidate, You are hereby assured, that such might have been had, if thought necessary by MR. MASTER's Friends.

When Mr. *Henry Bathurst* had finish'd his Canvass, he took the first Opportunity of thanking his Friends in the usual Manner, and at the same Time answer'd the foregoing Queries as under in a Letter.

No. XIII.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

Cirencester, Sept. 1, 1753.

I Cannot omit the earliest Opportunity of returning you my sincere Thanks for your kind Reception of me upon this Occasion.

I had the Honour to be accompanied into the Town by a great Majority of legal Voters, and notwithstanding the Insults offer'd to me and my Friends, by an hired Rabble, headed by the KEMBLE SQUIRE, attended with BELLS, and abetted by the Presence of a REVEREND DIVINE of the same Family, I had the Satisfaction to see that I was generally welcome to the Inhabitants of this ANTIENT BOROUGH; and after a Canvass of two Days, (in which Time I endeavoured to wait upon every

every Elector) have found that the *same Recommendation* (which has for so many Years render'd me acceptable to this Town) has now met with *more Concurrence* than ever, tho' from *private Reasons* it has not in every Respect met with the *same Concurrence*. I say from *private Reasons*, because I can with Truth assert; (and it is well known to the several Gentlemen who favour'd me with their Attendance in my Canvass) that most of those who refused to promise me their Votes, at the same Time assured me that they wish'd me Success. Many acknowledged personal Obligations to me; and four Persons only in the whole Town could frame any personal Reason to be against me. This is an Honour that never before was the Lot of any Candidate; and I should be the most ungrateful of Men if I did not retain the same Zeal and Inclination to serve this Town, which I have always hitherto had.

I never could as yet be accused of being *A Defserter of old Friendships*: Those who, during my Absence, have made Interest against me, without applying at-all to me, or giving me any Notice of their Intention, if ever they profess'd themselves to be my Friends, must acknowledge they more justly deserve the Title of *Deserters of old Friendships*.

The unbias'd Inclinations of a Place can alone be call'd the *natural Interest* of it; I may therefore with Confidence assert, that I am supported by the *natural Interest* of this Place, as the unbias'd Inclinations of the Borough have so strongly appear'd in my Favour; and it is the Threats of a few only that have prevented me from meeting with an universal Approbation.

If you could defer your Choice till the Minority in a certain worthy Family was at an End, it might be said that in applying to you now, an ungenerous Advantage was taken of it; but it cannot be seriously expected

pected that I (who have had the Honour to serve for this Borough with the Father and the Son) should now desist from offering myself as a Candidate, because the Grandson is an Infant. You will not therefore suffer yourselves to be prevailed upon to give up half your Birthright, under a Notion of serving that Family. As long as the Father was inclined to serve, you chose him ; while the Son lived, he was your Representative ; and I make no Doubt but when the Grandson comes to Age, he will be thought worthy of the same Honour ; but I hope no Circumstances of that Family will incline you to deny me that Share of your Goodwill, which I have so long enjoy'd, and taken some Pains to deserve.

You can only exert your Birthright by giving your Votes agreeable to your Inclinations. You must have two Representatives ; chuse those who are most likely to serve you with Faithfulness and Ability. You have had the Trial of Me for these eighteen Years past : If my Conduct has not deserved your Favor, I have no Right to expect it ; if it has deserved it, (and the kind Reception I have met with upon this Occasion convinces me that you think it has) I am satisfied you will continue to support him, who is with great Truth and Fidelity,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obliged Friend,

And obedient humble Servant,

HENRY BATHURST.

Next in Order came a short Letter, on the Revival of the old Report concerning a Compromise, in the following Words.

No. XIV.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

WHEREAS it has been industriously reported, that I have declined offering myself as a Candidate for your Borough; this is to assure you, That I have not declined standing, nor do I think it in my Power to decline on any Account whatever; for when you did me the Honour to invite me to stand, I at the same Time gave you my Promise I would never decline.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Siddington, *Your obliged Friend and Neighbour,*
Sept. 4, 1753.

BEN. BATHURST.

The Subject of the above Letter was not a Matter of Dispute, and therefore needed no Reply; but on the Morrow was publish'd an Answer to Mr. *Henry Bathurst's* last Letter, and the Day following, appear'd a more correct Edition of this Answer, which is copied verbatim, as follows, viz.

No. XV.

No. XV.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

THE Friends of MR. MASTER and MR. COXE are called upon to make this Address to you by a Performance in Print, publish'd Yesterday, as extraordinary as ever had the Name of a Gentleman subscribed to it. But as we are unaquainted with the Arts of *Nisi-Prius* Scolding we willingly leave them to the Hon. *Writer*, and shall only lay before you a few plain Facts and Observations: To say nothing of the Characters of the two Worthy Gentlemen on whom He throws the Imputation of heading and abetting a *bired rabble* (which we believe would, were we quite silent, be a sufficient security to the Reputation of the Gentlemen among all unprejudiced Persons) let Fact only be considered; It plainly appears that when the Invitation was given to MR. MASTER'S Friends to drink the Health of their *Old Friend and Fellow-Townsmen* at MRS. MASTER'S, we knew not that Mr. B. and his Cavalcade would pass by the *Abby*, for how is it possible we could imagine or even guess that when (as we are inform'd) he went only to the Wood-House to be escorted back again he would chuse to make that his way into the Market - Place? If then there was any premeditated design in either Company of insulting the other, it is manifest on which side it was: As to what was really done, we are on very good Grounds inform'd that Huzzas would have been all the insult, the Cavalcade would have met with, (and even them we design'd to have prevented by taking our Friends out of the Town, and we verily thought out of the Way into MRS. MASTER'S Yard)

had not a certain Person among them, turn'd purposely out of the Horse-Track to ride over some of those on Foot.

The *Reverend Divine* alluded to, conscious of having really done the very contrary to what he is charged with, desires no particular vindication of his behaviour, especially as the Hon. Candidate himself has been so just as to acknowledge under his Hand in a Letter to him, that he is convinced it has been misrepresented, and express'd his Sorrow for its having been so. But it seems it was a *hired Rabble*: Here let the Hon. *Writer* lay his Hand upon his Heart, and ask himself who have been the Persons justly chargeable with *hiring a Rabble*? No Gentlemen! You all well know that we want no *Hirelings* to support or protect us; the Hearts of our *Cirencester* Friends are our sole dependance. But the most astonishing assertion of all, is that the Hon. Candidate was attended into Town by a great Majority of legal Voters. Various have been the *Successless* attempts to impose on your Understandings; but surely Gentlemen, no body can hope that you want Eyes or Ability to tell Twenty! It is quite notorious that when Mr. MASTER's Friends was introduced into the Town he had the Honour of the Attendance of many more legal Voters than attended the Hon. *Writer*. By this Instance you will judge of their Calculations and boasted Success of his Canvass. The remaining part of this Marvellous piece will be best answered by the few following Questions. Does not the Noble Family recommend two Candidates? Is not therefore the long standing agreement with the other Worthy Family broke through? Does not that Worthy Family recommend to your Choice Mr. COXE; And can Mr. COXE in the Situation of a single Candidate be supported upon equal Footing without your persisting, as he knows

knows you will, in giving him single Votes which such Numbers of you have done him the Honour to promise him?

This Answer call'd for another *Letter* from the Hon. Gentlemen last mention'd, which you have as under.

No. XVI.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

THERE being Yesterday a printed Paper handed about the Town, taking Notice of some Things contained in my Letter, it becomes me to address myself to you a second Time, and it shall be the last Time that I will appear in Print upon the Occasion.

As to the intended Reflexion upon me for being bred to the Bar, I assure you that I never shall be ashamed of a Profession that so frequently has enabled me to be useful to my Friends, and serviceable to my Country.

As to plain Facts, let Them speak for themselves. — The Chancellor of the Diocese and two other Clergymen made the Front of the Cavalcade; their Horses were endeavour'd to be frighten'd by Brandishing of Sticks, and other Means, by several Foot-people, who placed themselves in the Midst of the Street. — If Mr. *Benson* be asked, he can tell the Name of *The Gentleman* who did it. I (who rode next) was myself insulted by a drunken Fellow with an empty Pot, rioting under the Nose of my Horse; I am very confident that neither the Clergymen nor myself turned

our Horses out of the Track to ride over any one. Hand-bells were made Use of to frighten the Horses, and some Persons were actually thrown by the Means of them. If there was no premeditated Design to insult, how came the Rabble to be prepared with Bells? The Assertion, that they could not know which Way I should come thro' the Town, is ridiculous, because it is well known that Persons were sent to watch for that Purpose.

As to *What was really done*, the Facts are known, and therefore the Authors of the Paper are in the right not to meddle with them: But the Paragraph is so curious that I will transcribe the Whole of it, that you may see how *hard drove* they have been to frame any-thing like an Excuse for their Behaviour. Their Words are these. “As to what was really done, we are on very
 “ good Grounds inform'd that Huzzas would have
 “ been all the insult, the Cavalcade would have met
 “ with (and even them we designed to have prevented
 “ by taking our Friends out of the Town, and we verily
 “ thought out of the Way into MRS. MASTER'S
 “ Yard) had not a certain Person among them, turned
 “ purposely out of the Horse-Track to ride over some
 “ of those on Foot.”

How will they account for what can be proved, That many of the Combers, who walked before the Horses, were insulted and struck by Part of the same Mob, before a single Horseman had come near them.

A Reverend Divine was seen in the Midst of them; and it is well known that the Presence of a Gentleman will at all Times greatly encourage a Mob in their Actions: I was far from being inform'd by any Body that he endeavour'd to stop their Insults, therefore might well conclude, that his Presence abetted them. I scorn to tell an Untruth; I thought it at the Time, or I would

would not have said it : He has since assured me by Letter, that he endeavour'd to stop their Insults ; in Answer to which I wrote him Word, that I would believe what he said, and therefore was sorry his Behaviour had been mis-represented.

It is impossible for me knowingly to assert with what Numbers one of your other worthy Candidates was accompanied into the Town, because I was at that Time upon the Circuit ; but I am capable of judging of the Honour that was done Me ; and my Assertion, that there was a great Majority of legal Voters, was founded on the most exact Calculation that could be made. Those who saw both Processions are best capable of judging ; and I believe they will agree, that what the nameless Writers have asserted is (to use their own *elegant Phrase*) *quite notorious*.

I admit that there have been various, and I hope successful, Attempts to impose upon your Understandings.——It has been asserted that I voted for the Jew-Bill, when many of those who made the Assertion, must, at the Time they did so, know it to be false.—It has been asserted, (and is insinuated in their last Paper) that I have known of the hiring a Rabble. I assure you that I have lamented every Blow that has been given on either Side. I would have my Fellow-Townsmen declare their Sentiments of the Candidates without any Fear or Constraint, and bestow their Votes according to their *Unbiass'd Inclinations* ; I desire Success upon no other Ground, and do declare that I shall make it my Business (as I have hitherto) to prevent any Mischief from being done on either Side. Insulting and breaking of Windows, abusing and beating Women, maiming and murdering Men, are not the Means of Recommendation that I would have my Friends employ in my Behalf.

But

But to conclude. The Noble Lord (who was himself your Representative near fifty Years ago) has recommended me to your Choice; and I hope the Experience you have had of my Behaviour, both in publick and in private, will back that Recommendation. A near Relation of mine, who lives in the Neighbourhood, has offer'd himself as a Candidate, upon the Invitation of several Gentlemen of the Town; but why is that to be turned to my Prejudice? Mr. Coxo has been recommended to your Choice by a Letter from a very worthy Gentleman at Bath. You must have two Representatives, I hope you will exert your Birthright in the Choice of two; and if you follow your own *un-bias'd Inclination*, I am confident I shall have more Reason than ever to look upon myself as,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obliged Friend,

Sept. 6, 1753.

and obedient humble Servant,

HENRY BATHURST.

This Letter was never answer'd; but was follow'd the next Day by another Letter, from an Elector in the Bathurst-Interest, viz.

No. XVII.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

A Very absurd Paper having lately been publish'd without a Name, by Way of Answer to an Honourable Candidate's Letter, tho' I think the Whole unworthy of any Observation, being as full of false Assertions as of false Reasoning; The three Queries, however, ought to be taken Notice of; They are as follow,
1st,

1st. Does not the Noble Family recommend two Candidates?

2d. Is not therefore the long standing Agreement with the other worthy Family broke through?

3d. Does not that worthy Family recommend to your Choice Mr. *Coxe*.

I have made Enquiry into this long standing Agreement, and find the Noble Lord utterly denies any such Agreement. He acknowledges (as I am inform'd) a long standing Friendship with that Family, and has often said it shou'd never be broke thro' by him; I have also been inform'd, that when he was visited by the Principal Electors of the Town, (as they are pleas'd to call themselves) upon their saying that they thought his Lordship had a Right to name one Member, but they hop'd he would give the Town Leave to name the other; he immediately said, he did not pretend to any such Right; he was much oblig'd to them for having chose his Son, *Henry*, for so many Years together; and hop'd they would still think him worthy of their Choice; that he would not join him with any other Person whatsoever. I am well assur'd this is Truth, and if the Noble Lord had answer'd in any other Manner, (I speak with Deference to my Superiours) I think it would have tended to an Infringement of our Liberties. No Person (be he ever so great) has a Right to nominate a Member for this Town. I must observe, that Mr. *Master's* Name (of which so much Use has since been endeavour'd to be made) was not mention'd at that Time, as I have been assur'd by Persons present; but the Point then insisted upon was, *That Mr. Henry Bathurst shou'd be immediately join'd with Mr. Coxe; and go an equal Share of Expence with him.* Which was (and I think justly) refus'd.

E.

Hav-

Having had a Mind to look some Years back, I find upon Enquiry that about forty-eight Years ago the Noble Lord was himself elected for this Town, and was the Representative for six or seven Years. That when he was made a Peer he recommended the present Mr. *Master*, to be elected in his Room. I never heard of his having writ any other Letter of Recommendation.

But soon after, coming to reside amongst us, he has always been complimented by the Town with the Choice of a Brother or a Son, and one of the Name has represented it in every Parliament forty-eight Years together.

Now, as to the Honorable Gentleman of *Siddington*, I know the Fact to be this :—Many Persons of good Substance and Ability in the Town solicited him to stand at this Time ; and tho' he had no Desire to be in Parliament, having given up the County some Years ago, where he had been elected by a great Majority ; yet he could not reject their Application, thinking himself at least as proper a Person to be the Representative of this Borough as Mr. *Coxe*. I am also well convinced, that if the Managers for the Noble Lord, who canvass'd for Mr. *Henry Bathurst*, singly, had ask'd Votes for Mr. *Benjamin Bathurst* at the same Time, he would have had many, who have since been persuaded or bullied into giving a Vote for Mr. *Coxe* ; but the Noble Lord having declar'd at first that he would recommend Mr. *Henry Bathurst*, singly, he has not deviated from that Declaration ; and I am also assured that the two Gentlemen so near allied, have all this While had a separate Purse, and made their separate Entertainments.

As to the Recommendation from *Bath*, we understand by it, that Mr. *Master* gives his Interest to Mr. *Coxe*,

Coxe, singly, as the Lord of the Manor has given his, singly, to Mr. *Henry Bathurst*: They both of them know that there must be another Member elected, as well as the Person to whom each of them has given his Interest. But how is Mr. *Master*'s Interest supported by making all this Disturbance in the Town? He has declined standing himself for some Time; his Son, when living, was chosen; but as it must be presumed he has a Regard for his Grandson, (who may about fourteen Years hence be qualified to be a Candidate) I beg to know what Alliance will be of most Advantage to him, Whether that of the Noble Family, one of whom must be then the Lord of the Manor, with a large Estate in and about the Town, or of the Family of a Gentleman who lives at a Distance from the Town? The worthy Gentleman at *Bath* is capable of judging for himself if Matters were *rightly represented* to him.

But it is said we won't have two of the same Family. Whoever considers the Condition of that Noble Family, will be apt to fear that there may not be one of the Family *inclin'd* and *qualified* to represent them seven Years hence. But pray why did you not clamour when there were three of the same Family chose at the same Time in the County? Ridiculous Objection! the only Question is, Which is the properest Person to be your Representative, Mr. *Bathurst* of *Siddington*, or Mr. *Coxe* of *Lippiate*? for as to Mr. *Henry Bathurst*, I know well that most of those who would not engage to give him a Vote, have declar'd most heartily that they wish'd him Success. To conclude, therefore, I declare for Mr. *Henry Bathurst*, for his own Merit and distinguish'd Abilities, from whom I, among many others in this Town, have receiv'd great Benefit; and then for our *worthy Neighbour* at *Siddington*, whose good Nature, Charity, and Affability entitle him to our highest Regard.

gard. I think, too, he ought to reap some Advantage, to recompence the Expence of about One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds, which his Father has laid out amongst us.

Sept. 7, 1753.

An ELECTOR.

What follows seems designed for a Piece of Irony by some Friend to Mr. *Coxe*, attempting to personate the Writer of the last Letter, falsely supposed to be a Dissenter.

No. XVIII.

A second LETTER

To the Worthy ELECTORS *of the Borough of*
CIRENCESTER.

By the *Author* of the *First*.

Gentlemen,

MY first Address having met with so favourable Reception, I am encouraged to give you this fresh Trouble ; and may perhaps again exert my poor Abilities in the Cause, since our Champion has laid down his Pen, scorning any further Triumph over a silenced Enemy, and resolving henceforth to employ his *distinguisb'd Talents* on Subjects more worthy of him.

I hope there is none among you so dull as still to misapprehend the Proceedings of a Family who have done us the Honour to represent us so long, that an Opposition to them now may be stiled *Ingratitude* ; or so perverse as to suspect there can possibly be any Colusion, Double Dealing, or Design of Imposition. The known *Openness, Sincerity* and *Veracity* of your Honoured Patron (and who formerly condescended to
patronize

patronize those who now presume to recommend others to your Choice) the acknowledged *Candour* and *Spirit* of his darling Son, ought in Justice to place them above the Reach of Suspicion.

The Honours we have receiv'd, the Venison we have eaten the BOWS AT CHURCH all these call aloud for our Gratitude ; a Virtue we have so scandalously neglected, that an honourable Writer himself has been forced to put us in Mind of it. The *Bow at Meeting* which will become necessary, will not I hope be so ill repaid. We doubt not of the Cordial Affection of the Family, notwithstanding the mean Arts made use of to detach us from it.

It has been given out that our noble Friend declared *he had rather loose the Election than carry it by our Assistance* : The Author of which scandalous and false Report is hereby challenged to prove it. Surely we are not such mean Tools, as to be despised by those who are Obligated to use us !

Another mean Artifice was the Report that our Honourable Orator voted for the Jews. It has been said indeed that he *cowardly kept away* ; But let me ask any Impartial Person whether any more could be expected from a Gentleman in Place ? Do you think any of his Lordship's Servants will vote for Mr. Coxe ; However to clear up the Point, the said Honourable Gentleman is hereby ask'd, *Whether he will promise to promote the Repeal of the Law in Favour of the Jews* ? As the refusing to do so may loose him many Friends. At least we doubt not he will promise to be as kind to us of of *tender Consciences*, as to the declared Enemies of Christianity.

I told you in my last of a Time when three of the Family were chose in the County ; to which I am told it is replied that *Men as well as Times are Changed*,
Malice

Malice itself however cannot say it was not a Change from Conscience, since the Behaviour of the new Friends was but scurvy, and such as might otherwise have occasion'd a Relapse. A Place for nine Months was but a small Obligation in Return for *giving up the County*. They seem to think of treating their new Convert as *John* treats *Hannab*, who gives her a Crown for her Maidenhead, and when she is once debauched, he has her for Nothing.

As to your old Interest Candidate, what is his Merit? He sticks to his Principles, indeed; but what is that to us, who do not think them right? It is true he is for the CHURCH: For that very Reason I shall be against him. No body indeed can say but the Man is independent, and votes according to his Conscience: But then if you have a Mind to dine with him, 'tis a plaguy long Ride to *Lippiat*. I am very well satisfied that if our good natured Neighbour will not give up the Borough as he did the County the Man can have but little Chance.

The eloquent Harange in the Market-Place, the genteel Language close Reasoning, and strict regard to Truth which have since appear'd, might seem to make this unnecessary, but my good Will would shew itself.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Friend,

An ELECTOR.

Next follow'd a Paper written by the Honourable Mr. *Benjamin Batburst*, without any Name subscribed; but for the Sake of the lower Sort of People, the same
Paper

Paper was soon after re-printed, and signed by the Honourable Writer, as under.

No. XIX.

A Short

A N S W E R,

From *One CANDIDATE*, to All *QUERIES and PAPERS* Which have been or may be publish'd on the Subject of the ensuing *ELECTION* for the Borough of *Cirencester*.

I Take this Method publickly and faithfully to assure you that I stand solely upon my *own Interest*, as a neighbouring Gentleman, by the Invitation of many Electors, independent of any Person whatsoever; and neither connected with the Interest of one Family, nor in Opposition to the other Family.

I declare I never in any Manner encouraged Persons from other Parishes to interfere; I think my Friends at *Cirencester* sufficient in *Number and Resolution* to oppose all Insults; but as a Gentleman, and as a Friend to the Town, have earnestly endeavour'd to prevent all Insults, either on the Persons or Houses of my Neighbours.

On *this* Footing I first offer'd myself as a Candidate; With these Resolutions I continued my Canvas; and am *determined*, without giving any Answer to any future printed Papers, to continue to the last my Claim to the Votes of my Neighbours; and by promoting (as far as lies in my Power) their Peace and Welfare, to endeavour to deserve them.

Benj. Bathurst.

From

From the Beginning, a great Clamor had been raised against the Jew-Bill, and Mr. *Henry Batburst*, one of our present worthy Members, was said by some in the Opposition, not only to have *voted*, but even to have *spoke* for the Bill: Enquiry was thereupon made concerning the Justness of this Report, which was found to be absolutely false; a Friend to the Hon. Gentleman, therefore, who had very good Authority for what he advanc'd, publish'd this Advertisement.

No. XX.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT having been maliciously reported that the Honourable Mr. *Henry Batburst* voted for the Jew-Bill, This is to assure the Worthy Electors of the Borough of *Cirencester* that such Report is *absolutely false*.

His Friends defy those who have spread the Report to prove that he ever did, either in publick or in private, declare himself a Friend to that Bill. It is well known *he always did declare the contrary*; and that he has, upon former Occasions, voted against *Bills of Naturalization*.

At the Time the Jew-Bill was debated, Mr. *Batburst* was absent, being engaged in the necessary Duties of his Profession.

At the same Time, Mr. *Coxe* was likewise absent; but we do not know in what *important Business* he was then employ'd.

If, after This, any worthy Elector shall hear it said That Mr. *Batburst* was a Friend to the Jew-Bill, he is desired to tell his Informer, *That it is a notorious Falshood*, and to ask him this Question, *viz.*

Whether it is the Part of a good Christian, knowingly to spread a Lye to the Injury of his Neighbour?

Here follows the Answer to the last Advertisement.

No. XXI.

To the Worthy ELECTORS of the Borough of
CIRENCESTER.

Gentlemen,

AN Advertisement came out yesterday, from a certain Quarter, complaining of the spreading of Falshoods. With what Grace they can complain of *the spreading of falshoods*, I leave you to judge. It is impossible for us to know when to believe them: But as the Subject of their last Story is such, that we cannot well imagine that it could come out without the Knowledge of the Gentleman concerned, we shall therefore suppose it told upon His Authority, and take His Word for the Truth of it.

You have by this Time read it: You have doubtless *blush'd at it*. The Blood of an *Englishman* must *fly to his Cheeks* on such an Occasion. Such an Excuse for being absent when a Matter of that Importance was in Question! *He was engaged*, it seems, *in the necessary Duties of his Profession*. But *where* was he engaged? In *Westminster Hall*? Within Forty Yards? Within Call? Are *the Duties of his Profession* to be put in Competition with the Service of his Constituents, of *his COUNTRY*? Did not he know the Day beforehand? Could not he *watch one Hour*? Could not he be spared one Minute? Where were his *boasted Talents* then? Why were they not *then* exerted?

As to your other Member; He was, after attending great Part of the Session, retired into the Country, imagining, as was the general Opinion, that nothing of any Consequence would be attempted so late. He

was not *let into the Secret*. He had no *Place* to keep Him in Attendance, after the *Business* of the Nation was supposed to be *finish'd*. And he declared last Night, in the Presence of several Gentlemen, that had he been apprised of the Nature and Importance of the Jew-Bill, no *Business*, or *necessary Duty*, should have kept him away, though at an Hundred Miles distance. **HE LIKEWISE PROMISED TO PROMOTE THE REPEAL OF THE LATE LAW IN FAVOUR OF THE JEWS, IF PROPOSED WHILE HE WAS IN PARLIAMENT.** Now if the other Gentleman is really *no Friend to Jew-Bills*, **LET HIM DO THE LIKE.**

At the same Time He declared that He had not the least Concern in spreading or encouraging the Report complained of. The Gentleman himself seems to think it disgraceful; probably therefore it was not spread by his Friends: And indeed, was it not that he does not disown what was yesterday said in his Vindication, it might be thought that they were not much his Friends, who could publish such a lame Excuse for him.

Soon after the Publication of this Paper, a Personal Dispute arose, which we shall give some Account of hereafter. The next General Paper is the following, suppos'd to have been written by an Elector, and Friend to Mr. Cox.

No. XXII.

*To my good Neighbours and Brother-Electors of the
Borough of CIRENCESTER.*

Friends and Neighbours,

MR. MASTER having at length finished his Canvass of the Town, has entirely confuted the scandalous
ous

ous Report, so confidently given out, that he did not at all concern himself in the Recommendation of Mr. COXE. It may not be unseasonable at this Time to make a few Observations upon the various Arts which have been employed to impose upon the Understandings of plain Men, as most of us are, by the unfair Exertion of those Abilities, which have had the Advantage of being improved by a more liberal Education. We have been bred up with a View of providing a decent Subsistence for our Families; and in doing That we enrich our Country by our Industry: And to be *insulted in Print* was what we could by no Means have expected. But it having so happened, we are called upon to do what we can in the same Way; and I shall therefore, in my homely Style, give You my Thoughts, which I promise myself you will think reasonable, upon the Affair which at present disturbs our Peace and Quiet, and spoils our good Neighbourhood.

I shall as briefly as possible lay before You the whole proceedings; beginning with the pompous Entrance of the Honourable Gentleman into the Town, attended by *two or three Clergymen* of our Church, and a *great number of Presbyterians*. And truly, my Friends, when I saw him mounted on a great Horse, and heard him haranguing the Crowd in the Market-Place, I could not help thinking that he had more the Appearance of a Mountebank than a Candidate. It is said indeed that *his Pills were gilded*; however that was, I believe I shall never be brought to *swallow them*. He was pleased to complain that Advantage was taken of his Absence; though he could not but know it was owing to the Refusal of his own Recommender that the Canvass was not deferred 'till his Return.

His eloquent Performance by Word of Mouth was thought worthy of the Press, and immediately followed

by another in the form of a Letter. This Paper is disgraced by so many Scurrilities, and Personal Reflections upon those whom all know to be very far from deserving them, that it is really surprising any Gentleman could bear to subscribe his Name to it. It would take up too much of our Time, and not answer any great Purpose, to follow the Gentleman Step by Step throughout his whole Performances. The main Thing to be taken Notice of in the Letter we are upon, is the Rout that is made about giving a *single Vote*; as if a single Man could have any Chance against two without single Votes. But you are told it is giving away *Half your Birth-right*. Fine Gentlemen are mighty apt to think that we plain Folk have not Common Sense. So, I suppose, if Doctor *Bush* should stand next Election, I give up *Half my Birth-right* because I won't vote for Doctor *Bush*. My Birth-right is to do what I please with my Vote; I may vote if I please for two Gentlemen, if I have a mind I may vote but for one, and if none but *Presbyterians* were to stand, I would not vote at all. I was bred up in the Church, and I love the Church, and will always be for the Church. As to the *Presbyterians*, I like them not, nor their Principles, nor their Practices, nor those that join them. Do you think they would make all the Stir they do for Nothing? Ah Neighbours! *They do know their Friends though we do not.*

The Honourable Gentleman has put his Name but to one Paper more, in Answer to the Defence that was made to the Accusations of his Former. In the Beginning of This, there is a very extraordinary piece of Affectation, as if he did not understand what was meant by *Nisi-Præius Scolding*: It must be construed forsooth as a Reflection upon the Profession of the Law. He knew well enough that no Reflection was meant upon the

the Profession itself, but upon the too great Liberties taken by some Gentlemen at the Bar ; for which I should be sorry to have it said any Friend of mine should be remarkable.

It is not worth disputing which Gentleman was attended by the greater Number of legal Voters upon their public Entrance: The material Point is, which will have the greater Number upon the Poll; which Time will discover. As to those who were drawn in to promise their Votes by false Suggestions ; a Promise obtained by Fraud and Deceit and *Lying* is no Promise at all ; *no one, I hope, is so ridiculous as to think such a Promise binding, and no one that has Half the Spirit of a Man, but must resent being imposed upon.*

As to what has been said concerning the *Jew-Bill*; the Point has already been discussed on both Sides, you are left to think of it as you please.

The Honourable Orator having laid down his Pen, some sneering Friend of Mr. COXE's thought proper to employ his; and sent forth two Letters in the Name of an *Electer*. Jests of this Kind are not quite upon a Level with the Capacity of every Body, and I confess the Ridicule of the first was so cover'd, that notwithstanding some Severities, which now appear plain enough, I did not thoroughly see into the Writer's Intent : But he, apprehending, I suppose, this might be the Case, thought proper to be a little more open in his second.

Give me leave now, my Friends, to say a Word or two in Recommendation of Mr. COXE. It is for our Credit, and will give us a great deal of Satisfaction, to send such a Member to *Parliament*, who we have all the Reason in the World to be assured will be under no Influence that will prevail upon him to act otherwise than freely and independently ; who desires a Seat in
Par-

Parliament with no other View, than that of serving his Country conscientiously and honestly; who is no *Placeman*, or *Pensioner*, or *Expectant*. This is a Point of very great Consequence; I shall therefore enlarge upon it a little. It is no Disgrace to serve the KING: But then *That* is no Recommendation for a Seat in *Parliament*. It is for the good of the Nation to have it's Representatives as free as possible, and as independent. *No Man can serve two Masters*, without neglecting the Interest of one of them. They will tell you *the Interests of the KING and the People are the same*; and so they are: But Times have been, when the People, and *the Minister at least*, have pulled different Ways. So the true Interests of a Father and his Family are the same: But supposing your Father and you had some disputed Accounts to settle, Would not you rather trust *your own* Servants than *his*? If *Parliaments* could be kept free from *Placemen*, the Taxes, I suppose, *would not be the higher for it*. Let me ask you, Neighbours, a plain Question or two. If any of you had a Dispute with Lord *Batburst*, about settling Rates or *Chief Rents* suppose, do you think you should refer it to Mr. *Stone* and Mr. *Caps*? And yet no one says but they are both honest Men and good Neighbours. Or if you had a Law-Suit with *his Lordship*, Which of you would chuse, if you could help it, to have it tried by a *Jury of his Tenants and Dependants*?

What was said in this last Paragraph naturally calls to my Mind some Speeches which have been thrown out about *Ingratitude*. *The Father*, I suppose, does not deny that he has been very much obliged to the Town; and yet one of the *Sons*, who says he does not want to be in *Parliament*, must put this large Town into a Ferment, and destroy our Quiet and Good-Neighbourhood, *merely*, according to his own account,
because

because he does not like a Man's Face. We are much obliged to him truly: And ought to be very grateful for it. The Gentleman too, who thinks proper to accuse us, would do well to consider *the Value* of the Favours he has had from us. Did we never help him in his Business? Were we never the Means of his Promotion? Where a Man *serves his Country*, and gets *Nothing* by it, far be it from me to think he is under any Obligation to those that chuse him: But if I put a Man in the Way of *serving himself*, that is *some Obligation*. A certain Gentleman was in some Sort under a Necessity of being in *Parliament*: Let him consider *what a Cornish Borough* would have cost him. I wish he would but take the Pains to calculate the Value of *our Favours* to him, and of *his* to us: We should be glad not to be thought *ungrateful*: Let him bring in his Bill, and we will pay him *the Remainder*.

Upon the Merits of our Cause then let us stand firmly by **OUR SINGLE CANDIDATE**; let us consider upon *whom* he depends for Support. Let as many as *heartily love* **THE CHURCH** stick fast to *Her* and *her Friends*. It is hard indeed if we cannot bring in *one Member*, in Spite of *Lords and Synagogues*, and *Meeting Houses*. We are for the *old Family*, and the *old Principles*. They that are of another Mind may vote, if they will, for a *Double Bathurst*. But we'll have none of their *Turns* or their *Doubles*. We do not like your *Double-Dealings*, nor your *Double-Meanings*, your *Double-Tongues*, nor your *Double-Faces*, nor your *Double-Bathursts*. No *Turn-coats*; no *Placemen*; no *Slaves*! No *Presbyterians*; no *Roundheads*; no *King-killers*! No *Jews*! No *Jews*! **NO JEWS**! Christianity for ever! Old England; Old Interest; and a **SINGLE COXE**! Huzza! **FOR FRAMING.**

It would be doing Injustice to the Honourable Gentleman who is principally attack'd by the foregoing Paper, not to desire my Readers to recollect who those are that appear to have been *most insulted in Print*; and whose Papers appear to be *most disgraced by Scurrilities and personal Reflexions*. As to the Facts advanc'd, it is well known, that above two Thirds of those who met the Hon. Gentleman, were of the *establish'd Church*. That the *only* Place he has under his Majesty is that of King's Council, which every Body knows to be an Office *merely of Honour*, and not of *Profit*: And his Conduct in Parliament during the eight Years that he has had that Office, is a *convincing Proof* that he has not been *influenced* by it.

The Reader is likewise desired to consider, Whether the Honourable Gentleman may not be (as he has always acknowledged himself) under great Obligations to the *Town in general*, and yet have *Reason* to complain of the *Ingratitude* of *some Particulars*. — And therefore, unless *those Particulars* can shew they were the *sole Means* of his having been four Times before elected for this Borough, they seem to have *no Right* to demand such an *Account* to be settled with them, supposing it ever so true that he was *under a Necessity* of being in *Parliament*. Tho' it is difficult to conceive how it could be *any Advantage* to a young Gentleman in the Profession of the *Law* to be *engaged in Parliament*, especially when his *Connexions* were *not with the Administration*.

I shall trouble the Reader no farther with Remarks on this Paper; but recommend him to the following, which soon after succeeded it.

No. XXIII.

The Wool-Comber's LETTER

TO HIS

BROTHER-ELECTORS

Of the Borough of CIRENCESTER.

NO Turncoats! no Placemen! no Slaves! no
 Presbyterians! no Roundheads! no King-killers!
 no Jews! no Jews! NO JEWS! Christianity for
 ever! old England! old Interest! and a single Cox!
 Huzza!

This is the Conclusion of the last celebrated Performance of the *W's*. A Performance of which the Authors are so Proud, that at the Bottom of it they inform us, they intend it *For r'aming*.

For Heaven's Sake, do they think that all their Neighbours are Fools, that they venture to treat them in this Manner; such Words may do well enough for the Mouths of a drunken Mob; but must be laughed at by every Man who has common Sense and Understanding.

The Authors may say that their Performance is wrote in a *homely Stile*, if they please; But there is a great Deal in that Paper, which I do not understand, and yet I think I know English pretty well; and perhaps can take an Argument as well as my Neighbours. I went to School with Mr. *Reeve* till I was bound Apprentice, and have ever since lived in this Town. I

G

never

never had Occasion to write more than a Letter in my whole Life; yet as I find no Body else will take Notice of that Paper, I will, because I have been told many Things which I cannot reconcile with what is said in it; and I love to deal in Matter of Fact. Fine Speeches or artful Writings may *deceive*, but Matters of Fact are *to be depended upon*.

Now I will put down what I take to be Matter of Fact: If I say what is not Truth, I desire to be set right; and when Matters of Fact are truly stated, I believe my Neighbours and I can judge for ourselves without having *hard Words* put into our Mouths.

I have been told that the *We's* applied to the Presbyterians for their Assistance, in order to set up Mr. *Brice Fyber* as Candidate for this Town. Is that matter of Fact? If it is, why do the *We's* now object to the two Mr. *Batbursts* for making Use of the *same Assistance*?

There are three or four Dissenters who give their Votes and Interests the same Way with the *We's*; I am told they have been very much carets'd by the *We's*. Is that Matter of Fact? If it is, I shall think that the *We's* would have equally carets'd *all* the Dissenters, if they could have prevail'd upon them to be *all* on their Side; and consequently, that the Clamour they make about the *Church* and the *Presbyterians* is only to impose upon their ignorant Neighbours.

The Dissenters are not above *one Hundred*, the whole Number of Voters in this Town are upwards of *six Hundred*, therefore whoever would be chosen for this Borough, must depend principally upon *Us Churchmen* for their Support; and therefore I do not see how the *Church* can be in Danger by the *Presbyterians* being allow'd a Right to vote as well as their Neighbours; and by what I have seen and heard, *all the Candidates seem to have been equally desirous of having them*.

I have been told that the *We's* sent to several Gentlemen, and offer'd to bring them in for this Town, and that Mr. *Coxe* was never intended to be the Candidate, till they were disappointed every where else. Is that Matter of Fact? I believe it to be so, but this I am sure of, that I have heard most of the *We's* speak personally against Mr. *Coxe*, and swear that he never should again be Member for this Town.

Upon what Principles do the *We's* act? They support Mr. *Coxe*, whom I have often heard them find Fault with. They oppose the Counsellor, whom they always spoke well of, and for whom they always did pretend to have a great Regard; And I know he has often displeased other People in the Town by being so much with them and by standing by them upon all Occasions; yet now the *We's* do not only oppose him, but abuse him as much as possible. If they can not give a good Reason for what they do, I know what I shall think of them.

The *We's* have made a great Clamour about the Jew-Bill. They said the Counsellor voted for it; they said he spoke for it; they said Mr. *Coxe* voted against it. I have since been told, and have seen it in Print, that neither the Counsellor, nor Mr. *Coxe*, were in the House when the Bill was voted. Now if the Fact be so, how am I to believe any Thing that the *We's* say?

But it is in Print that Mr. *Coxe* has promised to promote the Repeal of the Jew-Bill, if it is proposed while he is in Parliament. If it is a Bill of so much Importance as the *We's* say it is; Why did not Mr. *Coxe* promise that he would himself move to have it repeal'd. I am told that every Member of Parliament has an equal Right to make a Motion. I have often heard of the Counsellor's making Motions in the House: I do not recollect to have heard that Mr. *Coxe* ever

made *One*. Now I make no Objection to Mr. Coxe, yet I think I would rather have a Gentleman to be Member for this Town, who *can speak* when he sees Occasion.

As to the Jew-bill, I should be glad to have it explain'd, and if I am convinced that it is a bad Law, I will agree to go with my Neighbours in a Body to the Counsellor, and desire him to move to have it repeal'd. I am told, that he has said that *he is ready to promise that he will himself move to have it repeal'd, in Case the Town desires it of him.*

It is said in Print that Mr. Coxe was “ after attending
“ great Part of the Session, retired into the Country,
“ imagining, as was the general Opinion, that nothing
“ of any Consequence would be attempted so late.
“ He was not *let into the Secret*. He had no Place,
“ to keep him in Attendance, after the Business of the
“ Nation was supposed to be finished. And he declared
“ last Night, in the Presence of several Gentlemen,
“ that had he been apprised of the Nature and Import-
“ ance of the Jew-Bill, no Business, or *necessary Duty*,
“ should have kept him away, though at an Hundred
“ Miles distance.” *See No. 21 of this Collection.*

Now I am told the Bill was depending near a Month in the House of Lords, and that what is done there is *no secret*. I am told that the Bill was brought from the House of Lords into the House of Commons, upon the 15th or 16th of April, and that it was printed in a few Days after, by the Order of the House, and that every Member might have had a printed Copy. I am told that the Bill did not pass in that House till the 22d or 23d of May. Are these Things Matters of Fact? If they are, how could any Member who can read or hear be out of the secret? And how could any Member not be apprised of the Nature and Importance

portance of the Bill? Surely it is not necessary for a Member to have a Place in order to be let into the Secret of what passes in the House.

I am told that the whole the Jew-Bill does is to enable any future Parliament to naturalize, if they see proper, any Jew who has lived three Years in Great Britain or Ireland, altho' he has not taken the Sacrament. But I am told that if the Parliament should hereafter make Use of this Power, and naturalize any particular Jew, that yet such Jew will not be enabled by such Naturalization, to be of the *Privy Council* or a *Member of Parliament*, or to have any Place. Are these Matters of Fact? If they are I do not see the great Importance of the Bill. For my Part, I trust that the Parliament will always be cautious how they naturalize any Person of any Religion. But if any Foreigner can promote the Trade of this Kingdom, I think that the Parliament ought to naturalize him, *even though he was a Jew*. If Sir Thomas Lombe (who set up the Silk-Mill at Derby) had been a Jew, I think the Parliament would have done right to naturalize him. If any Jew could now shew us how to make Cloth so as to under-sell the French in Turkey, by which Means the Inhabitants of this County would be enrich'd, I should hope that the Parliament would naturalize him.

I am told that before this Bill pass'd into a Law, any Jew born in England might have bought not only Land, but likewise might have bought Advowsons; so that such Jews might have become Patrons of some of our best Livings. I am told that this Bill prevents any Jews from being Patrons of Livings. Is that Matter of Fact? If it is, I think the Bill in that Respect is quite right. If there is any Clergyman who wants to have a Jew for his Patron, he may (if he pleases) get a Promise from such Members as are his Friends

to promote the Repeal of the Jew-Bill ; but I will not join with him in making the Request for such a Purpose.

I am told that there was not a single Bishop in the House of Lords who opposed the Bill. I am told there were only fifteen Members in the House of Commons who voted against it. Are these Matters of Fact? If they are, I shall not easily be persuaded that our holy Religion is in Danger from this Bill, whatever Clamor may be made by those whose Lives and Actions are a Disgrace to the Religion they profess, and who make Use of the Words *Church, Christianity, Presbyterian, &c.* only to serve private Purposes.

The *We's* object to the Counsellor, that he has got a Place under the King ; now I know that since he has had his Place he has been twice chosen for this Town, and the *We's* made no Objection to him ; I shall therefore think his having a Place is no Objection now, unless the *We's* can give some Reason to prove it is. I do not think it will be deem'd an Objection by such who are for the present Family, and present Constitution in Church and State, whatever it may be, by those who declare themselves for the old Family and old Principles.

I am told that the *We's* went in a Body to Lord Bathurst, and offer'd to choose the Counsellor, if his Lordship would join him with Mr. Coxe, at equal Expence ; but because my Lord would not be bullied into that Proposal, they turn'd against the Counsellor ; but not out of any objection to him. Now I think that any other Set of Men had as much Right to name a Member for the Town as the *We's* had to name Mr. Coxe. Lord Bathurst therefore could not come into their Proposal. See the Introduction.

As to what the *We's* say of our other Honourable Candidate, I think it scarce worth answering. I am told that he was very earnestly invited to stand ; I am
sure

sure I myself wish'd he would; and believe that it is to *serve his Country* and *oblige his Friends* that he puts himself to all this Trouble and Expence; and not as the *We's* say, because he does not like a Man's Face.

But it is plain what the *We's* would be at; *they would govern the whole Town*. Because the Wool-combers will not submit to be govern'd by them, the *We's* threaten to take away our Trade, and have actually set up one or two Comb-Shops; but it is certain *they will hurt no Body by it but themselves*.

I am told that the *We's* have made a Subscription to carry on the Expences of this Election. Is that Matter of Fact? If it is, it plainly shews what they aim at. They would never put themselves to an Expence to bring in Mr. Coxe, for whom they have never till *very lately*, pretended to have any Regard: It can only be, then, with a Design to make themselves the Governors of this Town: For my Part, I do not desire to be govern'd by them. They are insolent enough already, and if they were to get the better now, there would be no bearing with them, or living in the Town.

If the Friends of the *We's* will answer these Matters of Fact, I shall be ready to listen to what they say. But if, instead of Facts, they run into personal Abuse, and throw out *Words without meaning*, I shall for one (and I know many of my Neighbours are of the same Opinion) take no further Notice of them.

So much for the honest Wooll-Comber, whose Manner is plain, and has at least a Shew of Candour; and whose Arguments seem conclusive. They were not, however, satisfactory to some of Mr. Coxe's Friends, as appears from the Publication of the subsequent Paper.

No. XXIV.



THE

True *Churchman's* second Address

TO HIS

Good Neighbours and Brother Electors of the Borough
of CIRENCESTER.*Friends and Neighbours,*

I Well hoped I should have had no farther Occasion to leave my Shop and take up my Pen, or to trouble you any more with the plain Reasonings of such a Man as I. But some Folks, you see, cannot be silent, though they have nothing to say. I cannot now indeed complain, as I did before, of the unfair Exertion of improved Abilities to puzzle and impose upon Men bred up to Trade and not to Learning; That is no longer the Case: But I am sorry for the sake of the poor Printers, that such *heavy drawling Scribblers* should be engaged in the Dispute. I was in hopes some of my Neighbours might have got a Penny by printing the whole Contest together; and so indeed they might, if the other Side would but get Somebody to write that *could* write, and not publish such *Stuff* as must *disgrace* the Collection. I cannot, for my Share, see where was the Cunning to put such an Affront upon the *Wool-Combers* as to lay *their half begotten Brats* at one of *their Doors*.

This new Writer, it seems, has a Mind to be thought a mighty *Matter-of-Fact* Man. Will you,
Neigh-

Neighbours, have Patience with me? Suppose I take the Pains to pick out from his tedious Epistle his *Matters of Fact*, as he calls them, and then make an Observation or two upon each of them.

His *Facts*, as he pleases to stile them, are as follow. He says, That the Gentlemen who support Mr. Coxe applied to the Presbyterians; That some Dissenters who favour Mr. Coxe have not been ill-used; That the Dissenters are not so numerous as the Church-men; That other Gentlemen besides Mr. Coxe were applied to to stand; That some Gentlemen of Mr. Coxe's Side have been heard to speak well of Mr. Henry Bathurst; That Mr. Coxe has in his Life time been found Fault with; That a great Clamour has been made about the Jew-Bill; That a certain Gentleman can speak; That he can make Motions; That he is now ready to make a Motion; (N. B. If he wants Burn Fodder he may take the Wool-Comber's Letter) That a Man may be let into the Secret without having a Place; That the Author hopes the Parliament will be cautious how they naturalize any Man that is of any Religion; That the Jew-Bill was a good Bill; That the Jews are not to have Places; That England is the better for the late Law about the Jews; That the Bishops did not oppose it; That but fifteen voted against it in the House of Commons; That those who clamour against it are a Disgrace to their Religion; That the having a Place is no Objection to a Man's being in Parliament; That Lord Bathurst might have brought in one of his Sons, if he pleased without Opposition; That a certain Gentleman thinks of serving his Country to oblige his Friends; That there is a certain Set of Men who would fain govern the Town; That they intend to hurt the Trade of it; And have made Subscriptions towards the Expences of the Election.

Fact the First. *The Gentlemen who support Mr. Cox* apply'd to the Presbyterians for their Interest for Mr. Fisher. Absolutely false if meant of the Body in general, and very much suspected not to be true of any particular Elector. They did not apply to them to bring in *two*, and exclude LORD BATHURST'S Recommendation: Did they?

Fact the Second. *Some few Dissenters favour Mr. Cox, and have not been ill used.* It is not our Principle to use our Friends ill, We love to be grateful; and should scorn, if a poor Man was to lose his Life in our Cause, to insult an afflicted Widow and her distressed Orphans, by setting the Groans of their dear Relation to the Tunes of drunken Catches; by crying his Ghost and his *Walking* about the Street, and making ourselves Sport out of his Agonies and their Misfortunes. How should any of us like to be served *so ourselves*? Let us make it *our own Case*. But the Man was poor it seems, and so it does not signify.

Fact the Third. *The Dissenters are not so numerous as the Churchmen.* Thank God they are not. We hope, in Spite of their great Alliances, they never will. The Writer, I suppose, thinks this a very hard Case, and could lament it most pathetically: But for my Share, I hope I shall never live to see old CIRENCESTER a Presbyterian Borough.

Fact the Fourth. *Other Gentlemen besides Mr. Cox were invited to stand.*—— I believe they might be by particular People: Many thought Mr. Cox did not design to stand any more: There was such a Report. I only wish we had known Time enough *what Work was going forward*: Invitations should not have been wanting. As it is, if no Body joins Mr. Cox *this Time*, Care will be taken to attack them *next* upon an equal Footing.

Fact

Fact the Fifth. *Some Gentlemen of Mr. COXE'S Side have been heard to speak well of Mr. HENRY BATHURST.* I doubt it not. And why should not they? Many of them, I dare say, cannot help still retaining a Friendship for him, and being sorry to see him obliged to keep such Company, as he seems to be ashamed of.

Fact the sixth. *I have heard several of Mr. COXE'S Friends speak personally against him.—Ah! Mr. Maker-of-Facts; Ware Presbyterian Tricks there! You would fain be Mr. Maker-of-Mischief too, would not you? But did you never hear what a certain Great Man said at A——n about the Presbyterians? If that Story was not true, it would be inquired into fast enough. But what of that? He always opposed, he always despised them; and yet now, for a Bit of Coaxing, and a Bit of Venison, how readily do they follow his Leash, and lick his Spittle?*

Fact the Seventh. *A great Clamour has been made about the Jew-Bill.—Very true. We most heartily disapprove of it. If others were of the same Opinion, Half their Letter would not have been taken up in the Defence of it. I wonder though, when they were about it, they did not vindicate their Juries, as well as their Jews.*

Fact the eighth and ninth. *Mr. HENRY BATHURST can speak when he sees Occasion, and has made Motions in the House. Allowed. Well; by this the admirable Writer, (notwithstanding the unlucky Ridicule upon his Friend) intended to reflect upon the Abilities of our worthy Candidate, who was never before suspected of being inferior to either of his Antagonists. However, to waive all such Disputes, we allow that they are both Men of consummate Taste and Abilities, of great Capacity, Ingenuity, Penetration, and Eloquence; nor do*

we think Mr. COXE would be at all *obliged* to us, if we were to set about *making Comparisons*.

Fact the tenth. *MR. HENRY BATHURST will move the Repeal of the Jew-Act if the Town desire it of him.* — It will be an Honour for us to have ask'd it, and for him to have done it.

Fact the eleventh. *A Man may be let into the Secret without having a Place.* — We have heard as much.

Fact the twelfth. *The Author hopes the Parliament will be cautious how they naturalize a Person of any Religion.* — We will believe him for once. He is not the first that has thought Religion a very troublesome Thing, and a great hindrance to publick Affairs.

Fact the thirteenth. *The Jew-Bill was a good Bill.* — This is the main point insisted on by the Letter Writer; You must give me Leave now, Neighbours, to be very serious with you, for it is a very serious Matter, and I cannot bear that these crafty Presbyterians should so shamefully scatter their Poison among you. I could prove him a Liar by an Hundred Arguments; but one will do. Suppose the Bathursts were extinct; and the Manor of CIRENCESTER in the Hands of a Jew: Should you like to see a Synagogue in the Park? The Lord of the Manor you know has Power enough. You would soon be stock'd with Jews; tho' Non-Parishioners he could make them Ward-men, &c. and bring a Charge on your Parish. How should you like That? Would not you thank him for it? Or suppose, if you will, that the Manor and the Abbey too were in the Hands of Jews. Do you think that That would give no Influence in Favour of Judaism? and no Discouragement to the Profession of Christianity? Should you chuse to be Jew-ridden? It is true, Neighbours, this is not like to be the Case very soon with Regard to ourselves: But is that a Reason why we should

should not be against such Bills? If it is not *our own Case*, it may (if the *Jews* are permitted to purchase Estates) be the Case of *some of our Countrymen who are Englishmen, and Christians as well as we.*

Fact the Fourteenth. *The Jews are not to have Places.*—Very likely this may be sufficient to satisfy the Consciences of some Folk: *They cannot, then interfere with themselves.* But *We, that have some Regard to our Religion* do not think of being satisfied so easily.

Fact the Fifteenth. *England is the better for the late Law about the Jews.* The Legislature most certainly intended it should be so; and if they find the People in general do not think so, will, without Doubt, gratify them in their humble Request to have the Matter reconsidered. In the mean Time, as to the *Advantages* the Letter Writer is pleased to *dream of*—it is *false*, that *unconverted Jews*, though born in the Nation, had a Right to purchase Lands, Manors and Advowsons. In Fact the Laws against them were so *very harsh*, that all humane Persons were glad to see them lie dormant. It is a likely Thing the *Jews* themselves should desire to have their Condition made worse, and go to the *Parliament* with a, “Pray, Gentlemen be so good as to a—bridge our Privileges.” As to the Case the Writer has put (with by the by is Nothing to the Purpose) of a *Jew* who could teach us some useful Art or Manufacture, I do not agree with him even there. If such an One was to offer, the Wisdom of the Legislature might easily find many Ways to reward him besides *Naturalization*. And if not, I should never be for *selling my Birth-right for a Mess of Pottage.*

Fact the Sixteenth. *The Bishops did not oppose the Jew-Bill.*—I am very sorry for it if they did not, and am afraid some of their Flocks will not love them the better for it. I could wish it had not been mentioned;
and

and whether it be true or false, I am satisfied *no one but a Presbyterian would have publish'd such a Thing.* And yet they do not endeavour to prejudice the **CHURCH** poor Men not they.

Fact the Seventeenth. *But fifteen voted against the Jew-Bill in the House of Commons—*This is a Fact we are no Judges of. We hope there will be more there next Time, and that People will not think it too much Trouble to walk *forty Yards* on such an Occasion. A plain Proof however (if the Assertion be true) that “ the “ Gentlemen in the Country were not apprised that any “ Thing of Importance was going on so late in the Session ” as was said in behalf of **MR. COXE.**

Fact the Eighteenth. *The Clamour against the Jews is made by such as are a Disgrace to their Religion.—* Is it so? Thou matchless Impudence! Thou knowest best the *Private Purposes* thou art to serve by such daring Effrontery.

Fact the Nineteenth. *A Place is no Objection to a Man's being in Parliament—*I hope Neighbours, I have fully proved it is. *No Answer has been attempted, to what I said upon this Head in my last Address to you ;* and I must beg you to read that Part over again if you would have Satisfaction about this Point. The Laws too seem to be of the same Opinion, or why do they turn every Man out of *Parliament* that takes a Place? But there is the Thing, it seems: You have chosen a Gentleman since he was in Place, “ and why then is it an “ Objection now? ” I will tell you, my Brother Voters. Our Town happens to be so constituted, that in Order to keep Peace, we are obliged to take *one BATHURST.* The Gentleman concerned *was* much beloved and respected. It does not follow that because a Man has a Place he should have no good Qualities to recommend him: But whenever a *Placeman* and an *Independant*
Man

Man come in Competition, there cannot I think, be any Doubt which an Englishman should vote for.

Fact the Twentieth. *LORD BATHURST* could have brought in one of his Sons without Opposition, most certainly he might, and have preserved the peace of the Town. But, for our Parts, we had no mind to put a Feather into any Man's Cap, or, My Borough into his Mouth. We could not think of giving up the Old Family who never changed, or left their Old Friends, or their Old Principles. Some Folk had a Promise, as they said, of the Interest of our Worthy Friend. His Life, you know, at that Time, was despaired of, and Dead Men tell no Tales. The Opportunity was thought lucky to quash a longstanding Interest among us. Town and Country are now satisfied of This, and it is not the Hall! Master and the Kisses that can make us think otherwise.

Fact the Twenty First. *A certain Gentleman stands to oblige his Friends.*—And so our Quiet must be sacrificed to the private Views and Resentments of his Friends. But I have heard another Reason, that it is to oblige his Antagonist, and out of pure Friendship to him. This however is not quite consistent with the Offer he made him, “If you will decline, Mr. Coxe, I will.” Upon the whole, till it is quite settled for what Reason he does stand, we may as well acquiesce in that which was before assigned, that “he chanceth not to like a Man's Face.”

Fact the Twenty Second. *There is a Set of People who would fain govern the Town.*—Granted. The Presbyterians think, by joining themselves to a certain powerful Family, to lord it over us all. But we fear them not. Old England, Old Interest, and the good Old Church for ever and ever!

Fact

Fact the Twenty Third. *Endeavours are making to hurt the Trade of the Town.*—It is false; Endeavours are making to increase the Trade of it; Comb-Shops are opening, and the utmost Encouragement will be given. As to hurting themselves, the Gentlemen concerned are above taking Notice of such *paltry* Insinuations; and doubt not of their being able to carry on this new Branch of Business, with the same Reputation and Success as they have done the old one.

Fact the Twenty Fourth. *A Subscription is made towards the Expences of the Election.*—No Doubt there will be one if there should be Occasion, and rather than suffer the *Presbyterians* to turn the Scale, and bring in two Members.

And so much for two Dozen of formidable *Facts*, You see, Neighbours when a Man departs from Truth and Reason, *How easily he is answered.* You see now clearly what they would be at: For if they did not like the *Jew-Bill*, they would never take so much Pains to defend it.

I could have helped the Writer, if he had applied to me, to several more *Facts*—I could have told him that Mr. MASTER'S Name was mentioned, and the Interest of his Family much insisted on, at what he calls the *bullying* Visit, let who will say to the Contrary.—I could have acquainted him that if the *innocent* must be deprived of Liberty, we live in Old England still, and if we must appear at Gloucester the *Blood-thirsty* will not be allowed to *chuse* their Jury *there*—I could have told him that some Folks Tricks are now fully laid open, and that the Consequence of their *aspiring* will be only to climb high enough, to *show their own Back-sides*.—I could have convinced him that if the *Presbyterians* had offered to join our *worthy Friend* in Order to have excluded the *BATHURSTS*, he would have scorned

scorned to have accepted it; I dare say he would have *Subscribed Five Hundred Pounds* to their Support.

And now, my Friends and *Fellow Churchmen*, let us have nothing to do with this *Judaizing* *Q. W.* Let the *Jews* and their *Defenders* go together: Let us that are for the **CHURCH** heartily unite and stand by one another: and then a Fig for these Disturbers of our Peace; if we cannot make them ashamed of their Conduct, we will make them repent it however; if their *Brass* should secure them from the one, it is not in the power of *all their Tricks* to save them from the other.

P. S. I was just sending this to the Press—when the joyful News was brought me! Our old Friend and Townsman, our old steady Member; intends to declare himself a Candidate! Now then my noble Friends, my Honest Worthy Brother Churchmen, Quit you like Men. Now shall we shew our Strength. On then, *Fellow Churchmen*! nor suffer these insolent Presbyterians to ride upon our Backs; On then *Fellow Christians* nor suffer yourselves to be trampled upon by *Jews* and *Judaizers*.

No Placemen! No Court-Dependents! No Rum-pers! No *Jews*! Christianity for ever! Huzza! MASTER and COXE! Down with the Turn-Coats! Down with the Rump! Huzza!

We have now seen the *Wooll-Comber's* LETTER examined, and no Doubt the Author imagines *thoroughly confuted*; but the Reader is desired to suspend his Judgment till he has read the following Reply.

No. XXV.

D E F E N S E

The Wool-Comber's LETTER,

Against the silly Exceptions and dishonest Cavils of
the *W E's*.

WHenever a Performance of the *W e's* hath lain before me, I have still been ready to imagine, that they themselves, tho' *remarkable for Folly*, could never produce another Piece that should be more senseless and ridiculous: But their next Work hath always convinced me that I have been greatly mistaken. For this Reason I am doubtful, whether we have yet seen the worst Nonsense they are capable of scribbling. The Extent of their Abilities in this Respect is beyond Conjecture; and tho' the Paper against the Wool-Comber is so destitute of Meaning, as well as of Modesty and Candor, that all other Authors may be defy'd to match it for Stupidity; yet I am not certain that they themselves could not contrive a Performance, that should be fairly allow'd to be still more nonsensical.

I have sometimes thought it would save them a great Deal of Trouble, if they only went to the Printer, and desired him, after he had shaken the Types in a Hat, to throw them together as mere Chance should direct. I would venture a small Wage, that a Work produc'd in that random Manner would be altogether as edifying, and much *more entertaining* to the Public, than any Thing they have yet printed.

Fact

Far be it from me, or any other Writer, to ridicule these unhappy Men. For tho' Providence hath been pleased to deny them Common Sense, we should still consider them as formed in the human Shape; and must own that their Hands, under proper Direction, tho' not their Heads, might be of some Use in Society. I acknowledge they were never made for handling a Pen; but some of them are tolerably well qualified to handle a *Pen*, or to hold a *Pen*: And whatever their Parents should mistake, as they have done, the Design of Nature concerning them, is a Misfortune much to be lamented.

However it must still be observed, that, tho' they are only a Degree or two superior to mere *Animals*, there is much *Slavery*, and some *Cunting* intermingled with all their Folly. This Appearance in Nature is not in the least uncommon. 'Tis frequently seen that *Monks*, nay *Faiths* who are below *Monks*, will show themselves cunning in Mischief. On this Account it may be very proper to give these Scribblers a little Correction; not only to deter them from future ill Practices, but to render them notorious, and to guard Mankind against their unlucky Pranks.

Now, lest some People should imagine that I wrong these curious Penmen, I shall point out a *few*, among *many*, of their senseless, impertinent and cavilling Remarks on the Wool-Comber's Letter; a Piece which was not written by a Dissenter, as they insinuate, but of which no Man, whether Dissenter or Churchman, would have Reason to be ashamed. To follow these notable Scribes thro' all the Particulars of their Nonsense, would be endless; I shall therefore point out only the principal Articles, in which they have misrepresented and trilled with their Adversary, and which may serve as a Specimen of all the rest.

The sensible and honest Wool-Comber had ask'd them, whether the *We's* had not applied for Assistance to the *Presbyterians*, in order to set up Mr. *Brice Fisher* as a Candidate for this Town; and if they really had, why they objected to the two Mr. *Batbursts* for making Use of the same Assistance. Now this Fact (but without taking Notice of the Wool-Comber's Inference) they partly deny. They say that the Assertion is absolutely false, if meant of the Body in general; and very much suspected not to be true of any particular Elector. What a mean, pitiful, infamous Quibble! I now aver (and let them deny it if they dare) that Application was actually made to Mr. *Bush*, and another dissenting Elector, in Behalf of Mr. *Fisher*, intimating that the Gentleman would not declare himself a Candidate, unless the Dissenters would promise their Interest to support him. 'Tis true, the Application was not made directly by the *We's*, but by an eminent Clothier who has Dealings with those People; for they well knew, that any Advances of this Sort immediately from *Them* would have met with the utmost Contempt. Their hinting, therefore, that the Proposal was not made by an Elector, was a wretched, detestable Evasion. I can now prove, by the most reputable Evidence, that a Leader of this Party has declar'd, they would set up a *Jew* for a Candidate, rather than two of Lord *Batburst's* Sons should represent the Town; and therefore who will believe, that they would have refused the Assistance of any Party to promote their Schemes? They go on and observe, that the *We's* did not apply to the Dissenters to bring in *Two*, and exclude Lord *Batburst's* Recommendation. But, pray, do they call this Reasoning? Is this to the Purpose of the Wool-Comber's Argument? The Question was, and the only Question here in Debate, Whether the

two Mr. *Bathursts* are blamable for using the Assistance of the Dissenters, when the *W's* themselves would have gladly done the same? This Question was occasion'd by a ridiculous Clamor, which the Mob of their *Writers*, as well as their *other* Mob had raised, as if Lord *Bathurst* and his Sons, because they employ'd the Interest of the Dissenters, had been turning Dissenters themselves, and had brought the Church into the most imminent Danger. The Wool-Comber clears the noble Family from this Imputation, by a very home Argument, drawn from the Conduct of the *W's*. But this excellent Piece of Reasoning, because it was absolutely unanswerable, is quoted, like the other Topics in the Letter, only by Halves; and then quitted for a foreign Subject. The Exclusion of *this* or *that* Person's Recommendation is as distant from the Matter in Debate, as the Writers themselves from Common Honesty and Common Sense. And, by the Way, I would have these contemptible Triflers observe, that, in Spite of *ANY ONE's* Recommendation, two Sons of Lord *Bathurst* have as great a Right to stand Candidates for this Borough as any Gentlemen in England. A Seat in the House of Commons is NO MAN'S INHERITANCE, nor *This* or *any Other Borough* his PROPERTY; let him live where he pleases, and let his Family be never so antiently settled in the Town disputed. The Electors are FREE, and I hope and believe they will SHEW THEMSELVES FREE at this GLORIOUS AND IMPORTANT CRISIS. The Good Sense, the Honesty, the Steadiness, the public Spirit, and Love of Liberty, which the far greater Part of *them* have shewn upon the present Occasion, were never excell'd, and can never be sufficiently praised.

Again, the Wool-Comber had observed, that three or four Dissenters, who vote for the *W's*, being caress'd by that Party, all the Dissenters would probably have

have been equally caress'd, if they had voted the same Way; from whence he infers, that the Clamor of the Church being in Danger from the Presbyterians, on Account of their joining Lord Rathbun's Family, is only a Trick to impose on the Credulity of the Ignorant. Their Answer to this Argument is such a Compound of Telling, Nonsense, and Dishonesty, as I believe never was exceeded, from the Beginning of the Creation to this Moment. *It is not our Principle to use our Friends ill. We love to be grateful!* They might as well have told us, *The Wind was North.* But indeed their Intention of trifling with the Wool-Comber's Argument is visible at first Glance, from their Manner of stating it. *Some few Dissenters favour Mr. Coxe, and have not been ill used.* This is not so much as the *Fact* fairly represented; but the *Inference* is quite omitted. The Fact was, that the few Dissenters who vote for Mr. Coxe are actually caress'd by the *W's*; the Inference, that if *all* the Dissenters had voted on the same Side, they would probably have met with the same Caresses, and therefore that the Clamor of the *W's* about Church and Dissenters is all Imposition. This is the whole Argument; and whether the Treatment of it by these Scribblers was most owing to Dulness or Dishonesty, let the Public decide.

But these illiterate Triflers, instead of attending to the Point in Debate, harangue upon the Cruelty of raising *Tom Jordan's Ghost*. Thoughtless and ridiculous! Was there any Reflection made on the poor Man's Character, in the Ballad to which they allude? Was there any Sport made of his Miseries, or the Distress of his mournful Family? How can these infamous Men pretend Compassion either to *him* or *his*; when *their* Mob murder'd him, and their Party did all in their Power to treat his Daughter with the utmost Severity?

Severity: Nay, (what lets their Modesty in a peculiar Light) they themselves attempted a Ballad on the very same Subject; but, their awkward Endeavour being unsuccessful, they raise an Outcry against the Author of the *first*. In reality, *Jordan's Ghost* was first brought on the Stage, not to insult his Memory and Character, but to expose the Authors of his Deeds. They felt the Satyre, and have raised, in Revenge, this impudent and senseless Cry.

The Wool-Comber had farther argued, that, as the dissenting Electors are not a sixth Part of the Electors in the whole Town, *their* Voting, as well as their Neighbours, could no Way endanger the Church. This Reasoning is answer'd, with the usual Propriety, by thanking God that the Dissenters are not so numerous as the Churchmen, and other impertinent Souls of the same Kind. Before I proceed, I must give the Authors of this Nonsense a Piece of Advice. If they ever receiv'd University-Education, I beg that, for the Credit of those Nurseries of Learning, they would keep it a profound Secret. I am certain no Creature will suspect it from their Manner of Writing; and (to use their own Language) *no one but a Presbyterian would ever publish such a Thing.*

I have not quite done with this Topic of the Church's Danger. These Men have all along endeavour'd to make it believ'd, that the Contest is between Churchmen and Dissenters; whereas, in reality, 'tis between a noble Family and the aspiring Family of the *W's*. The Tales of this Faction are as base and disingenuous as their Policy is bad. They spread the ridiculous Story among the People, that the Church was to be turned into a *Market-Place*, which, they say, was threaten'd by a Dissenter. This Assertion I now charge upon them as a gross, impudent Falshood, for which they

they deserve to be ever infamous, till their *Memory* is too rotten to be longer preserv'd. The Dissenters have no malicious Designs against the Church. They heartily esteem every worthy *Churchman*; they sincerely reverence every worthy *Clergyman*. They are thankfully content with the Toleration they enjoy, for which they are no way indebted to such People as the *We's*. They have no Prejudice against a *black Rose*, when the Wearer do's not disgrace it; but a *white Rose*, worn by a Clergyman as a Party-distinction, they abominate; and consider the Wearer as professedly insulting the awful Religion of an Oath.

In one of the senseless Papers published by the *We's*, the Question was asked, Why the Dissenters made such a *Stir* in the present Contest. It shall now be answer'd. They *stir* for Liberty; for Peace, and a *Deliverance* from the Injuries and Insults of those Men, who have long been the Tyrants of the Town. Have not the *We's* shewn their Scurrility and Insolence on the very Canvass, to those who refused them Votes? This was a Behaviour extremely different from that of the other Party, who acted like Gentlemen and Christians. Let my Fellow Townsmen only suppose, that they found themselves injured, insulted, and oppress'd by *Papists*. Would they refuse the Assistance of their Neighbours to regain their Liberty, because those Neighbours were *Dissenters*? And pray, what are the *We's* better than *Papists*; since they have all the Absurdity, Prevarication and Cruelty of that pestilent Faction? Now is the Time to obtain and secure our Freedom. If we now lose the happy Opportunity, if we now hearken to the infamous *Flatterers* of our Enemies, we are Slaves for ever.

These Wasters of Ink and Paper are pleased to remark, that the Dissenters follow a noble Lord for the Sake of his Venison. But I would have them understand,

stand, that the Dissenters are as able, at least, as the Patrons of these Scribblers, to entertain themselves at their own Cost; that they were never yet so notorious for pampering their Appetites as the Party who reproach them; that they relish the Conversation at his Lordship's Table, as the noblest Entertainment; and can taste, what these Men and their Masters never tasted,

The Feast of Reason, and the Flow of Soul.

But, to proceed with their curious Objections. A great Part of their Paper is fill'd with Remarks on the Jew-Bill. The honest Wool-Comber had express'd a Wish, that the Parliament would never naturalize Persons of any Religion; or, in other Words, that they would never naturalize Foreigners by a general Act, let their Religion be what it will. Behold now the Sense, the Charity, and the Honesty of their Answer, which ought to be written in *Letters of Brass*! *We will believe him for once. He is not the first that has thought Religion a very troublesome Thing, and a great Hindrance to public Affairs.* Did their weak Heads really imagine, or do their wicked Hearts only pretend, that the Author thought Religion itself an Objection to Naturalization? Many such Sons would bring the Church into real Danger.

In other Parts of this Work they talk much of *Placemen, Influence, Freedom and Independence*. Thoughtless Men! Do they imagine, or would they have others imagine, that there is no unreasonable or undue Influence on the other Side? Is not Prejudice against a Ministry a Sort of Influence as unreasonable as a blind Attachment to it? Is not a Resolution of always opposing a Ministry, right or wrong, as senseless and iniquitous as a Resolution of constantly joining it at all Adventures?

Is not *one Man* as obstinate and wrong-headed thro' *Despair of a Place*, as another thro' the *Hope or Possession of it*?—Give me the *ingenuous and impartial Patriot*, who is *always faithful to his King and Country*, and occasionally *opposes or joins the Administration*, as directed by his *REASON*, and obliged by his *CONSCIENCE*. Such, I am persuaded, are the real Principles, and such is the Character of the two honourable Candidates.

If I had Time, I would bestow some Remarks on the *Style of these worthy Writers*, which, having yet no Name given it by the Critics, I distinguish by the Appellation of the *Porterly or Scrub Style*. I shall only observe farther, that all their *Wit, Eloquence, and Reasoning* are summ'd up, as usual, in their finishing Sentence; with which I shall beg Leave to regale my Reader.—*No Placemen! No Court-Dependents! No Rumpers! No Jews! CHRISTIANITY FOR EVER! HUZZA! Master and Cox! Down with the Turn-Coats! Down with the Rump! Huzza!*

This Paper is the last that has appear'd relating to the Parties in general. One Piece of the same Kind (No. 1. in the following Appendix) is now added, which was never before publish'd. The Rest of the Appendix consists of the personal Controversy, a Hint of which was given the Reader in Page 36, and of the few printed Songs occasion'd by the present Contest.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX.

THE following Ridicule on No. 153 in the preceding Collection, was drawn up immediately after the Publication of that Paper; but the Author, for various Reasons, thought fit to suppress it. He hath now equal Reasons for presenting it without Scruple to the Public.

No. I.

Clerk against Parson:

Or, A DEFENSE of the Hon. Mr. HENRY BATHURST'S LETTER.

By the Parish-Clerk of C—R—N C—S T—R.

A Certain Divine, who is an excellent Manager of that Species of Controversy call'd Mobbing, hath now mistaken his own Talents, and attempted a Confutation of Mr. Henry Bathurst's Letter. Being concerned for the Reputation of my Reverend Brother, I could wish he had made so free as to consult me upon the Occasion; for I could have given him such Documents about Grammar, Style, Sense, Connexion, Decency, and Matter of Fact, (the *only* Points in which he is deficient, as would have made his Performance tolerable. At present, an ill-natured Reader would be apt to tell him, in his own Language, that he wants *Eyes or Ability to tell Twenty.*

He thinks fit, in his great Wisdom, to charge the Hon. Candidate with *Nisi prius* Scolding. I am sorry a Gentleman of our Cloth should use such unseemly Language, and should foul himself with *throwing Dirt* in any Sense.

He asserts, that *the Characters of two worthy Gentlemen would be a sufficient Security to the Reputation of the Gentlemen*; which is saying in other Words, that *the Characters of the Gentlemen would secure the Gentlemen's Characters!* The Author must surely be a very learned and ingenious Gentleman, to express himself in so genteel a Manner.

We knew not (says the Rev. Apologist) *that Mr. Bathurst and his Cavalcade would pass by the Abby; for how is it possible we could imagine or even guess &c.* I and other learned Men are of opinion, that instead of *imagine or even guess*, he ought to have said, *guess or even imagine*. But, for my part, I can't imagine or even guess, how my Rev. Brother, or his Followers, could be ignorant of what was known by every Child in the Town. Besides, if those who were stationed on the Tower, to watch the Approach of the Cavalcade, could not give Information what Way it took, they must certainly be as deficient in Eye-sight as most of the Party are in Understanding.

He goes on: *If there was any premeditated Design in either Company of insulting the other, it is manifest on which Side it was; that is to say, it was plainly on Mr. Bathurst's Side.* Well said, Parson! But then a small Difficulty occurs in this Place, which I must beg the Favor of my Rev. Brother to remove. How was it possible the Hon. Candidate and his Company *could imagine or even guess*, that this Leader of the Church militant, and his worthy Attendants, would be stationed at the Abbey? The Route of the former was declared before-

beforehand, and was therefore sufficiently known; but the Station of the latter could not possibly be conjectured: Unless indeed it must need be supposed, from their Temper and Manners, that they could not help mobbing; and that no Place in the Town was so fit as the Abbey to entertain a Mob. I must farther observe on the last quoted Clause, that Design in either Company is not very pure *English*; but my Rev. Brother being of late drawn off by Politics from more proper Studies, I pardon him this Inaccuracy. Indeed I should not wonder, if, amidst his present Avocations, he should forget even his Spelling.

In the next Clause he is so very sublime, that his Sense is quite out of Sight. *As to what was really done, we are on very good Grounds informed, that Huzza's would have been all the Insult, &c.* To which I reply in the same Strain, That as to what my Rev. Brother *has really said*, I am on very good Grounds informed he *would have said* something, but in fact has said nothing. I beg his Pardon for this humble Attempt to imitate his beautiful Manner.

As to the other Particulars on which he has display'd his Parts, such as the Imputation of hiring a Rabble, the Number of legal Voters in each Cavalcade, the Breach of a supposed Agreement between two Families, and other Things of the same kind; they have been set already in a proper Light by the Hon. and ingenious Candidate. I shall only observe here, that my Rev. Brother might have comprized all he hath said upon those Subjects in this single Sentence: *Coxe for ever Huzza!*

Before I have done, I must take the Liberty of recommending a Text to him for next Sunday, which might be very edifying to his Friends in this Parish; and therefore, with the Minister's Leave, I could wish he would handle it in our Church. The Text I mean is
that

that old Prohibition, which some People here think obsolete, and no way binding upon Christians: *That shall do no Murder.*

N. B. If a certain small Attorney, who has often of late exposed himself in Print, should have the *Assumption** to attack my present Performance: I must assure him beforehand that I don't chuse to dispute with my Inferiors, and that he must not expect the Honour of being *tuned* by a Parish-Clerk.

* An Expression used by this miserable Being, in a late Article of News concerning the *He's* and *We's*.

No. 2.

A New S O N G.

To an Old Tune.

HERE's a Health to the Lord of the Manor.
Here's a Health to the Lord of the Manor.

We never shall see

One better than *He*,

To enlist ourselves under his Banner.

CHORUS.

Confound those who give him such Trouble,

Confound those, &c.

But a Fig for the We's;

We'll stand by the He's,

And vote for them double and double.

2 U II! O H O

Then drink to our *Siddington* Neighbour,

Then drink, &c.

Let them say what they will,

He'll stand by us still,

And Success shall reward all his Labour.

CHO.

CHORUS

Confound those who give him such Trouble.

Confound those, &c.

IN,

Drink again to the Count'lor, his Brother.

Drink again, &c.

He knows all the Laws,

And is true to our Cause,

Tho' of Jew-Bills they make such a Pother.

CHORUS

Confound those who give him such Trouble.

Confound those, &c.

But a Fig for the We's;

We'll stand by the He's,

And vote for them double and double.

No. 3.

Another New S O N G,

To the Tune of the First.

HERE's a Health to our Friend Mr. Master,
Here's a Health to our Friend Mr. Master.

We never shall see

One better than He,

Who can by the true Church stick faster?

CHORUS

Confound the Liar with Truth they mingle

Confound the, &c.

And a Rag for the He's,

Let's stand by the We's,

And vote my Boys Single and Single.

II.

Then drink to our *Christian* Member,
Then drink, &c.

The *He's* say what they list,
But *Ye'll* alway persist,
And *Coxe* Boys for ever remember.

C H O R U S.

*Confound the Lies with Truth they mingle,
Confound, &c.*

III.

Drink again to all honest true Blues,
Drink again, &c.

It is *best* for our Laws,
To be true to our Cause.
And scorn him who wou'd favour th' *Jews*.

C H O R U S.

*Confound the Lies with Truth they mingle,
Confound the, &c.*
Old England! Old Interest! Christianity for ever.
Huzza!

No. 4.

A New S O N G,

In Answer to the First.

II.

YOU may drink to the Lord of the Manor;
You may drink to the Lord of the Manor;
But *we'll* drink to a *Coxe*,
Though *we* sit in the Stocks:
And *we'll* bravely fight under *his* Banner.

C H O.

C H O R U S.

*Let the Church not with King-killers mingle;
Let the, &c.*

*For if you have Sense
Of your votes to Dispense,
You will always cry Single Boys Single.*

II.

*And as for your Siddington Neighbour,
And as, &c.*

*Observe what We say,
He's the F—l of the Play;
And little He'll get by his Labour.*

C H O R U S.

*Let the Church not with King-killers mingle;
Let the, &c.*

III.

*But as for the Council his Brother,
But as, &c.*

*We make no great doubt,
But We turn him quite out,
Without making any great Pother.*

C H O R U S.

*Let the Church not with King-killers mingle;
Let the, &c.*

*Old England! Old Interest! Christianity for ever.
Huzza!*

No. 5.

Bathurst and Bathurst for ever,

A New S O N G. In two Parts.

1st Man. SO honest a Health,

I'll ne'er drink by Stealth,

For I think it sounds wondrous clever;

L

So

[76]

So prithe, Boy, drink,
('Tis what we all think)
To a Bathurst and Bathurst for ever.

CHORUS.

We'll all of us drink,
'Tis what we all think,
To a Bathurst and Bathurst for ever.

2d Man. The 'Squire we are sure,
To the last will endure ;
And the Couns'lor desert us will never.
Then let it go round,
I'm pleas'd with the Sound
Of a Bathurst and Bathurst for ever.

CHORUS.

Then let it go round,
We're pleas'd with the Sound
Of a Bathurst and Bathurst for ever.

1st Man. 'Tis very well known,
They're Friends to the Town,
And to serve us will use their Endeavour.
So let us not fear,
But tols off our Beer,
To a Bathurst and Bathurst for ever.

CHORUS.

We never will fear,
But tols off our Beer,
To a Bathurst and Bathurst for ever.

2d Man. Then let them be join'd,
It seems to my Mind :
An Interest that no Man should sever :

But

But if you'll be true,
And stand by the two,
We'll have *Bathurst* and *Bathurst* for ever.

CHORUS.

*We'll ever be true,
And stand by the Two,
And have Bathurst and Bathurst for ever.*

No. 6.

The Sheep-Biters. A Ballad.

When the *We's* t'other Night shew'd their Malice and Spite,

With a Mob of their Butchers and Boys ;
 J—c—b P—g—t pass'd thro', well knowing the Crew,
 And thus put a Stop to their Noise.

Fa, la, la, do! la do!

What a Buffle you keep, about *W-re* and his Sheep,
When all you can say is a Flam.

**A Receipt we can show for each Ram and each Ewe;
But where's your Receipt for the LAMB?**

Fa, la, &c.

Then venture no more to rub up an old Sore,
When you cannot get rid of the Bamm;
For 'tis very well known, both in Country and Town,
That you've ne'er a Receipt for the Lamb.

Fa, la, &c.

Ev'ry Dog that you meet, as you pass thro' the Street,
Runs from you for Fear of his Tail :

Then keep yourselves still as a Thief in a Mill ;

Left the Guilty should go to the Jail.

Fa, la, &c.

'Tis

'Tis no Wonder the Cry of the Sheep should not die,
 While the Sons of the Butcher have Life ;
 By their *Ba—ing* you find they've their Grandfather's
 Mind,
 Altho' they have laid by his Knife.

Fa, la, &c.

If a Dog too should stray, and fall in their Way,
 Then off goes his Tail in a Trice :
 " Thus Neighbours you see, *this* Dog can't be he."
 Ha ! ha ! what a cunning Device !

Fa, la, &c.

Now *Batburst's* Men all, when to *ba—ing* they fall,
 Pray ask where's the Tail of the Dog :
 No Butchers then cry ; Lamb-stealers all fly :
Chuck ! Chuck ! is the Call for a Hog.

Fa, la, ladol la dol.

The following Satyre, levell'd at the whole Party of
 the *We's*, was occasion'd by a Paper of theirs, the
 18th of this Collection ; by the Chorus of the Song,
 No. 4. in the Appendix ; and by other Treatment,
 which the Author imagined he had just Reason to
 resent.

No. 7.

TOM JORDAN'S GHOST. A BALLAD.

To the Tune of, *The King and the Abbot of Canterbury.*

ONE Night when the *We's* were all met at the Ram,
 To drink their Friend CHARLEY, * and *B—th—st*
 to damn : The

* There being two of the C—xs of the Name CHARLES, whether the
 Author intended either of those Gentlemen, is left to the Decision of
 the Critics.

The Ghost of *Tom Jordan* made bold to appear ;
No Fear of it's meeting a *Conjuror* there.

Derry down, &c.

What Muse can delineate this Bacchanal Crew,
Each fierce as a Papist, and false as a *Jew* ?
Had you seen 'em, and heard 'em, you'd surely been
tempted

To fancy all Bridewell that Night had been empty'd.

Derry down, &c.

Each Wight had come in with his Heart full of
Dudgeon,
With Lies in his Mouth, and with Nails in his Bludgeon ;
And each arm'd by Nature for Mobbing and Raking ;
Their Skulls were all thick beyond Danger of cracking.

Derry down, &c.

These Heroes were valiant, for why ? they were drunk ;
But when the Ghost enter'd, good lack how they stunk !
A *Lawyer* pronounc'd, with a pitiful Groan,
The Devil was come to lay Claim to his own.

Derry down, &c.

The dreadful, pale Spectre yet nothing had said,
But pointed, with Frowns, to the Wound in it's Head ;
Which drove all the Fumes from the Pate of each
Mobber,

The first Time at Twelve they had ever been sober.

Derry down, &c.

In a Fright they acknowledge their Lewdness and
Riot,
Lies, Rancour and Insults, the Bane of our Quiet ;
Their Hypocrisies, Treasons, they fell to confessing :
But blunder'd a Curse out instead of a Blessing.

Derry down, &c.

' Ye Brutes,' quoth the Ghost, ' ye Disgrace of a
Church,

' That honours the Morals you leave in the Lurch ;

' Your

‘ Your Vices are endless; then name ‘em no further:
 ‘ But know that your Cause was destroy’d by my
 Murther.

Derry down, &c.
 ‘ Sure Vengeance shall follow that horrible Evil;
 ‘ You shall go to the Dogs, and then to the Devil:
 ‘ And now, ere I vanish, I put but a Word in,
 ‘ Each Elector that joins you shall meet with Tom Jordan.
Derry down, &c.

No. 8.

Jordan's Injured GHOST.

To the Tune of William and Margaret.

When all was wrapt in dark Midnight,
 And all were fast asleep,
 In glided Jordan's injured Ghost,
 And stood at P—y's Feet.

The Spectre pale his Curtain drew;
 His Tongue Repentment fir'd,
 The Caitiff Wretch he thus bespoke,
 In Words that Truth inspir'd.

Awake thou lying Varlet, wake,
 Attend my dismal Call,
 Know 'twas your own accursed Schemes,
 That caus'd my woeful Fall.

In peace and quiet all were blest,
 'Till your ambitious Dreams,
 To raise yourselves above the Church,
 Set all the Town in Flames,
 Of all the Blood that shall be shed,

(O! may it be no more!)
 Vengeance of you will make demand,
 A heavy dreadful Score.

OF

Of Riots how dare you complain,
Who set th' Example dire?
Thy Coward Heart with damned Lies,
In secret fann'd the Fire.

How dar'd you say your Cause was just,
When Impudence must own
That Falshood is your whole Support,
Your Fabric's Corner-Stone.

Whatever Hand the Blow supply'd
That gave my hapless Fate,
I now forgive, and lay the Blame
At your accursed Gate.

The insult on my injur'd Ghost,
In thy quaint *Derry Down*,
Unless withdrawn,—expect to meet
That Spright both Night and Noon,

This having said he vanish'd Strait
To the pale Realms of Night,
False P—y shook in every Limb,
And trembled with affright.

No. 9.

On a *Supid BALLAD*, publish'd this Day by
the We'n, in Answer to Tom Jordan's Ghost.

BEhold the Dogg'rel by four Parsons penn'd!
Too gross to injure, and too dull to offend;
No Wit to varnish o'er the Want of Truth;
Abundant Poison, but no Song or Tooth.
Wond'rous Effect of their united Toil!
Shameless they steal, * and what they steal they spoil.

* Their Notion of imitating the Ghost was taken from the Ballad they pretended to answer; and the *Plan*, with several Lines of the Thing they have publish'd, from a Song call'd *William and Margaret*.

To raise my Credit, or in Verse or Prose,
 Kind Heav'n, afford me such unletter'd Foes;
 To make my Character unclouded shine,
 Grant me a Foil in ev'ry lewd Divine;
 Let Rev'rend Dunces quit th' unfinish'd Game,
 To murder Grammar, and asperse my Name;
 Leave for an Hour the tempting *Bottle* full,
 And, as a Joke is wanting, make a *Bull*. †
 Four Cyphers form no Number when they meet;
 Nor four dull, blund'ring Parsons make a Wit.

No. 10.

Advertisement.

THE Gentlemen supposed to be aimed at by the Scurrilities of Yesterday, cannot *think their Cause so weak*, as to quit the Merits of it for *Personal Reflection and Abuse*. 'Till they are of Opinion that their own Characters want Apologies, or of a Temper to take delight in lessening that of their Neighbour, they are willing to leave the *full-Blown Author* and his Associates in unrivalled Possession of Weapons they think it beneath them to use. Had not the Author of the Answer to their *merry dancing Ghost* been thoroughly persuaded that what he said was really *too gross to injure* any Man in his private Character, it never had seen the Light. And had he not been well informed and convinced who raked together all that *Heap of scandalous Terms* thrown upon the Gentlemen

† See a most staring Bull in the following Lines of their Ballad:

*Of all the Blood that shall be shed,
 (O may IT be no more?)*

at the *Ram*, there would not have been any Pretence for complaining of that which will be thought, by all indifferent Persons a very *mild* Return. The *Guilt of Blood* was such a Charge, as any Party would chuse to remove from themselves to the other Side, especially when they knew themselves innocent. whoever was in Fault.

The Gentlemen concerned are by no Means angry enough to make any Return in Kind; it would not become them either as Clergymen or Gentlemen. And though their Pens, such as they are, will always be at the Service of a Friend or a good Cause, yet they must beg to be excused entering into Personal Controversy with every Coxcomb, that can spell *Fool* and *Black-head*.

No. 11.

Advertisement.

THE Author of a Ballad intitl'd *Tom Jordan's Ghost*, and of the few *Lines* dispers'd on Monday Evening, appeals to the Public with Regard to the Propriety of his Conduct in the present Contest.

He declares, that, excepting the Ballad and verses abovemention'd, he never publish'd a single Sentence, relating either to the Election or the Parties concerned.

The former Piece, in which the whole Body of the *We's* are ridicul'd, but no particular Person distinguish'd, was never written till the *Dissenters* in general had been very rudely attack'd.

The latter, in which the Writer is more particular, but *still without mentioning Names*, was reader'd neces-

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sary

fary by a *personal Insult on himself, with his suppos'd Name express'd*; which the Authors call a very *mild Return*, but which the Impartial will own to have been made in *Terms*, altogether as free as any his Verses contain. He is as great a Friend to Peace and Decency, and as much superior to the Arts of *Abuse* as any of his Antagonists; but to bear Reproaches he does not deserve, or submit to Attacks which he knows himself able to repel, is neither his Temper nor his Duty.

His Adversaries, who actually introduced this *personal Controversy*, now acknowledge, that the Charge of *spreading Falshoods*, of *setting the Town in Flames*, and of *forming Designs to the Prejudice of the Church*, which they had advanced against him, was *too gross to injure*. He has already declared himself of the same Opinion with Regard to the *Effect*; but the *Intention* of the Authors which could only be judg'd of by the Language they used, was never the less *obliging*.—As to the *Guilt of Blood*, to which-ever Party it may justly be imputed, it is not in the *Choice* of that Party to remove it to the contrary Side.

Finally, as the Author is always disposed to do Justice, and particularly to give every Person *his own*; he cordially returns each of his Antagonists the Compliment of *Coxcomb*, they themselves being the *worthy* and unquestioned Proprietors.

No. 12.

Once again and no more.

THE Advertisement of Wednesday seems calculated for promoting that Kind of Controversy, which the Gentlemen on the other Side still persist in declining, and will do so, unless obliged by further Pro-

Provocation to shew the World, that no great Share of *Wit* or *Learning* is required for furnishing that Sort of Satire this Author is so ready at. — To turn the Dispute this Way is an Instance of that *Cunning* and *low Policy* which is commonly made use of by those that are engaged in a *bad Cause*. — It will not be thought a Point worth debating which of the five Gentlemen is most a *Coxcomb*, one of them must own himself to be very much so in his *Writing* whatever his general *Behaviour* and *Conversation* may say in his *Excuse*. A Man so confident of his great Abilities, and so strongly supported by Self-conceit, may consistently enough, assert his Character to be without Spot or Blemish, and boldly defy any Attack upon it. If he chooses however to proceed in the Way he seems so fond of, he must expect to have it examined a little, and whether the *Glass of Truth* will shew him so agreeable a *Picture* as that of *Vanity* has hitherto represented to him, the Issue will determine. One Thing must be taken Notice of, the Gentlemen beg to be excused from having so mean an Opinion of themselves as to think that one *spruce pretty Fellow* is to stake no more than his own Character against all theirs; he must not be surprised therefore to see a new Figure or two introduced upon the Stage, if he force them to shew their Talent at Abuse, in which Province however they shall always be pleased to be thought his Inferiors.

No. 13.

One against Four.

HAPPY Faculty of some Authors! who, when an Argument begins to be troublesome, can wander from it with infinite Serenity and Ease. The inimitable Wits, to whom we are indebted for a late

Advertisement, intitled *Once again and no more*, are as expert in this *Art of Rambling* as most Writers of the Age. They had been told (what indeed their own Consciences must have told them before) that they, or their Fellow-laborers, were actually the Introducers of the personal Contention now on foot: That they had first attack'd the whole Body of *Dis-senters*, which occasioned the general Onset on their own Party: And that then they descended to particular Abuse, insulting one Person by Name; who requir'd their Civility with a short Satyre; but thought it beneath him to mention Names. Have they now answer'd, or pretended to answer, or taken even the least Notice of this Allegation, in which they are so nearly concerned? Nay, do they not continue as abusive as ever; and yet with invincible Modesty affirm, that they *do* and *will* persist in declining all personal Controversy, unless farther provoked? They take it for granted, that if they only publish a Paper, the Mob of their own Party will not fail to extol it, tho' as distant from the Point, as Cavilling from Reasoning, or insolent Provocation from necessary Self-defence.

They charge their Adversary with that *Cunning and low Policy*, which is commonly made Use of by those that are engaged in a bad Cause. Let the Merits of that Cause be examined to the utmost, and let the reverend Confederates do all in their Power to prove it bad. They charge him with *Confidence and Self-conceit*. But they are desired to observe, that a Man may be conscious of not deserving their Reproaches, without claiming absolute Perfection; and may think himself able to repel such Attacks as theirs, without boasting of any great, or distinguish'd Abilities.

Two of their Metaphors [*a Glass showing a Picture*, and *Figures introduced upon a Stage*] he owns himself

not

not able to understand. 'Tis true, *magnifying Glasses* are sometimes used, in order to *reflect* Pictures; but if their *Satyre* is designed to be a *magnifying Glass*, (which indeed it must be, as they threaten to *show their Talent at ABUSE*) the World will take Notice, that it can't be the *Glass of Truth*, but the *Glass of Malevolence*.

At the same time that they vow Vengeance on their Adversary himself, they throw out Menaces against his Friends; but if they imagine no Reprisals shall be made on theirs, they are grievously mistaken. Worse Characters shall be attack'd than those of the *spruce pretty Fellows*; and till the contemptible Numbers of the Party are exhausted, which alas! will soon be the Case, a Dozen *Trojans* shall fall a Sacrifice to the Ghost of every *Greek*.

No. 14.

To Mr. Hill, Printer.

Mr. Hill,

AS I am a Friend to the Gentlemen who have been so *impotently* attacked, I must desire You to make publick these few Observations upon the Paper put forth Yesterday by the *Presbyterians*.

The Author of it is grown so cheap with Them as a Pretender to Writing, that they are determined to take no farther Notice of him. As to the *Metaphors* he nibbles at; if just, it is no Wonder *he did not understand them*. As to his *Conceited Title*; it is possible he may be blind enough to think such a one as himself equal to *four* of his Antagonist; but, I believe, the Gentlemen may lay all Vanity aside, and still be of Opinion that
he

he is not a Match for *one*. As to his Performance ; it is *too low* for Criticism : And for his Character ; whether it would, or would not, bear handling, they have no Inclination either to pull it to Pieces, or *dash their Fingers* with it. So that, both in his *Moral*, and in his *scribing Capacity*, he may *rest in Peace*. They cannot think it would answer the Charge of Printing, to publish any Thing of which *he* must be the Subject.

As to the Advertisement called *Once again and no more* ; I must confess there seems to be some little Inconsistency between That and former Declarations. The Truth of the Matter is, it was published in the Absence of most of the Gentlemen abused, before it had been seen by more than one of them, and he had no Hand in drawing up the former Advertisement. This is a Fact commonly known in the Town ; if known to the *dirty Writer*, he has shewn his *Insolence* ; if not, he has only given one more Proof of the *Delight* he takes in *Abuse*.

I am not at all surpris'd to see how *eagerly* he accepts a seeming Challenge of extending the Reflections to the Friends of either Party. Nature has taught every Animal *where it's Strength lies* ; the *most contemptible* are endued with as much *Instinct* as this comes to. An *Ass* before now has *kicked* at me ; a *Fitcher* has *stunk* at me ; a *Toad* has spit his *venomous Filth* at me ; and I could not wonder to find myself *belied* and *slandered* by a ———

At those Weapons, I doubt him not a Match for *forty*, and as adroit at the Use of them as those *Greek and Trojan Heroes* he seems to have heard of were at the Management of theirs. These are Weapons the Gentlemen do not chuse to engage with ; and for his Attempts at Wit and Satire, they are beneath their Notice ; and I dare say they have taken their final leave of him.

him. His *low Parts* are indeed his Misfortune; but then he should not make himself *the Object of Contempt* by pretending to Things that Nature never made him for.

After the *barbarous, inhuman, and ungrateful Insult*, upon poor *Jordan's* distressed Family, an Opportunity soon offered to roast the Author in his own Bull, and perhaps something of that Kind was, at first, intended: But it could not be done without adding to a just Affliction, heightened by Ill-Health, in those who were both *innocent* and *Women*; and therefore Humanity prevented it; it must have been too great a Shock, if we had followed his *vile Example*, and cried their Father's Ghost under their Windows, when his Body was scarce cold in his Grave. For the *Insulter* himself, he could not have been used too ill, if his Skin had been stripped over his Ears.

If the *Presbyterians* should attempt any more to make the most of their Cause, and plaister the rotten Pest, You may in that Case, Mr. Hill, expect the Pleasure of again employing your Press in a good Cause. But your Friends are determined to have Nothing more to do with *Personal Controversy*. I am,

Sir, your Humble Servant &c.

No. 15.

Advertisement.

THIS is to give NOTICE,
THAT four unhappy young Men having lately run distracted, and being thought to lurk about this Town and Neighbourhood, whoever will produce all or any of them at the Sign of the RAM, so as to give their Friends an Opportunity of securing them, shall receive for his Pains thirteen Pence Half-penny per Head.

Head. The following Description will render it quite needless to mention their Names.

One of the said Lunatics is a fresh-colour'd, plump, pock-fretten young Fellow, about five Feet nine Inches high; and is supposed, from the Straightness of his Back, and the Stiffness of his Gait, to wear an Iron-Collar. The next is taller by Half a Head, remarkably bacon-fac'd, a little shambling in his Walk, and in his Carriage and Manner has a great Resemblance to a He-Bear. *N. B.* He offers Courtship, and promises Marriage to every Woman he meets with. The third is a short, dapper Fellow, with long Ears, uncommonly fat about the Head, and exactly of the same Complexion with a Copper Sauce-pan. The fourth is a Thing with Ruffles and white Stockings, a *Kevenboller-Hat*, a brown Bob, a Hatchet-Face, and in his Body and Limbs, greatly resembling a Butterfly. He rails bitterly at the late Act against *clandestine Marriages*; which is thought owing to an Adventure in which he was once engaged.

Three of the unfortunate Creatures have a Notion, and would fain persuade the World, that they are Parsons; and the fourth, to wit, *Butterfly*, calls himself a Candidate for Orders: But their real Occupation is that of *Scavengers*; and at all Sorts of *dirty Work* they have been thought tolerable Hands. Indeed they were *designed* for the Ministry; but their Schoolmasters, tho' they vigorously ply'd the *Twigs of the Tree of Knowledge*, could never make any Thing of these Sparks; who are therefore a living Confutation of the old proverbial Saying, That *Fools can never run mad*.

If any Person, before he suspects they are mad, should happen to contradict or smile at them; they salute him with the Appellations of *Ass*, *Toad*, and *Fitcher*: The Meaning of which last Expression could never

never be discover'd; but as it comes from Madmen, 'tis no Wonder. 'Tis said they have run bawling about Town that *the Church is in Danger*, that the *Presbyterians* are going to run away with it into *Oakley-Wood*, and to erect a *Market-house* in it's Place. We also hear, that the poor Men are terribly afraid of being *circumcised*.

The Cause of their Madness hath been variously reported. Some ascribe it to hard Drinking. Others are of Opinion, that it arose from an ill Conscience, on Account of their taking, and then breaking, the Oaths to his M——y; but whether the Fact is justly represented, and whether Perjury would have given them any Uneasiness, I shall not determine. I think the most probable Opinion with regard to the Cause of their Distraction is, that they, among other Persons, have seen *Tom Jordan's Ghost*, and have continued stark raving mad ever since.

No. 16.

Cirencester, October 17, 1753.

THIS Day at a Meeting opposite the Abby, it was unanimously agreed on by the whole Fraternity of Presbyterian Dunces, that their Under-Scribe P—— do no longer presume to support himself and his Cause with the unfashionable Weapons of Argument and Humour, but that he substitute in their Stead, and answer all his Antagonists with the undisguised Names of *Madmen, Fools, Lunatics, Drunkards, Perjured, and disaffected Persons*. These are Names which they apprehend will best suit the *dull Capacity* of the Writer and his Fellow Brethren, and be a clear Confutation of all his Opponents.—This Act was order'd

der'd to be register'd and a faithful Copy to be taken of it by the said dirty Scribe under the Inspection of the President and two other Members, lest by the wrong spelling of the above Names, he should expose the Ignorance of himself and his Fraternity to the *learned* Censure of the *Gentlemen Porters* of this Town.

N. B. This Meeting is now incorporated into the Union Club lately establish'd here, which will sit every Friday Night for the Dispatch of *this kind of Business*.

Here the Printer was desired to insert the following Paragraph, which is all the Answer that will be given to the last Paper.

A Certain *old Woman* having been *pleased* to publish a very extraordinary Advertisement last Monday, the Person she has abused, being well assured that none of his four Antagonists were concerned in that *curious Piece*, begs to be excused from engaging in a Controversy with a Writer of *her Age and Sex*.

THE END.



Advertisement.

THE Public may now expect to see an Entertaining Piece, on a very popular Subject, occasion'd by the said *old Woman*. To be sold at 6d. each.

